

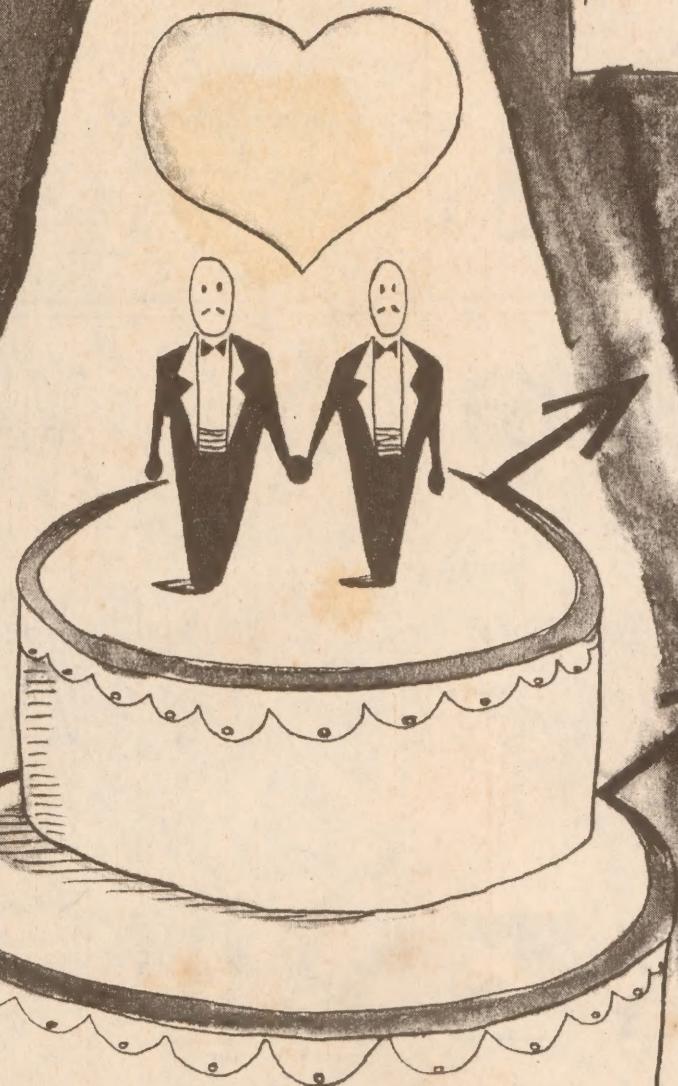
# IMPACT

press

February/March '00

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## Vowing for Equality: Same Sex Marriages



Inside:

Big Brother Broadcasts  
the Nightly News

The Fruits of Facism:  
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In Prison Because He  
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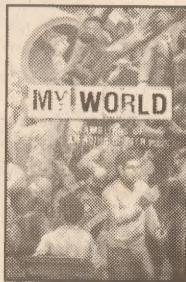
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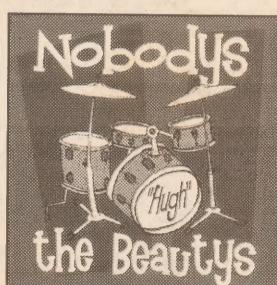
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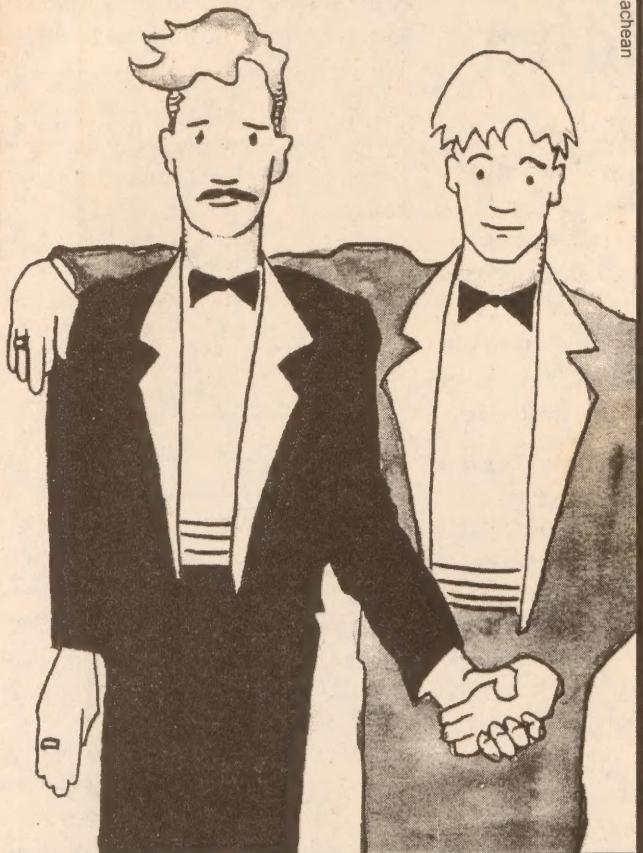
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# things within

IMPACT PRESS • ISSUE 25 • FEBRUARY/MARCH '00

cover story



## Vowing For Equality: Same Sex Marriages

by Adam Finley

When the idea of homosexuals being put into roles that have always been given to heterosexuals is brought up, the conversation is thrown into a tailspin, with voices on one side shouting for gay rights, and voices on the other insisting such actions only lead to the further deterioration of our moral fabric. • PAGE 25

"The freedom to marry has long been recognized as one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness by free men."

-- Chief Justice Earl Warren, US Supreme Court, *Loving v. Virginia*, 1967

"The smallest minority on earth is the individual. Those who deny individual rights, cannot claim to be defenders of minorities." -- Ayn Rand

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**Fun fact of the Issue:** February is the mating month for gray whales. And, the Earth rotates on its axis more slowly in March than in September.

"I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves, and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education." - Thomas Jefferson



## From The Editor

There are well over 100 candidates for U.S. President. It's true. Have you heard of John Hagelin from the Natural Law Party who has a Ph.D. from Harvard and pushes an environmental and health care heavy platform; or Harry Browne from the Libertarian Party who is personally opposed to abortion but thinks it should be allowed and wants to greatly decrease law enforcement funding?

The problem is that with so many choices, most voters know very little about the candidates. There are two parts to this problem: the system and the voter.

The current U.S. political system works only to further the cause of the two main parties. Even worse is that the only way you can get a third party exposure is to buy it. If Perot wasn't so damn rich, no one would have heard of the Reform Party or had to deal with his charts and graphs.

Unfortunately, not many people have "Perot"-amounts of money. So, they're left to scrap and beg for donations and try to get what little amount of media exposure they can score.

However, the media is part of the system. They have little or no interest in the "unviable" third party options. Instead of opening viewers eyes to new and, often, more honest choices, they feed the public repetitive vagueness. I'm sure there are plenty of people who don't even realize that their options go beyond the faces they see in the debates.

In the end, many voters sigh and groan about how "neither" candidate is very good. They'll read what their local newspaper or

slick magazine recommends and off to the voting booth they go, thinking they've made an informed decision.

This is the second part to the problem – the voter. Instead of being truly informed, the voter is often lazy. It's easy to be frustrated with our political system and convince yourself that *not voting* is the ultimate statement. But that's foolish. Your one vote in defiance of the "two" party system will affect a lot more than no vote at all.

The key is to not question the validity of a third party. Take time and research what the options are. The important thing is to decide if what they stand for is something you want to support. If so, give them your vote.

Part of making a third party succeed is to convince other voters that their vote isn't wasted. One great way to show that is to give *your* vote to a third party. The more people that do so, the more attention third parties will get. Eventually, the media won't be able to ignore them.

The system isn't going to change on its own. But, voters can. American voters can take a stand against wishy-washy politics and become informed. With that information comes the power to make a smart vote. And with enough smart votes, maybe this country can focus on people instead of politics.

**.craig mazer.**

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# Speak Your Mind. . .

Please proof your letters. IMPACT will try to decipher them. However, help us avoid having to do extra work. ALSO - keep your letters under 400 words. Thanks!

## IMPACT:

It is a sick world. I know that and many sense it. But what I think is more disgusting than Burger King and Pokemon getting together to sell there plastic wares is the fact that people are stupid enough to shell out the \$19.95 or \$99.95 for these toys. The responsibility is with the consumer. In these days, for good or for bad, the people vote with their credit cards and wallets not at the ballot poll. Until people wise up, we will keep getting useless products shoved down our throats, but it is insane to think the people making money on this are going to step aside and say, "Well what is the intrinsic value of our pokemon game. It doesn't really teach kids anything. I don't think we should market it." Fuck that! They won't stop and they shouldn't. I say, if the consumer is looking to get fucked, then fuck 'em. I'm smart enough not to buy this crap and max out my credit card and then blame it on corporate America. It's an ugly monster, but it is of our own creation.

Thanks for you time,  
Justin

P.S. I appreciate your magazine a great deal and read every issue front to back. I simply felt a devils advocate approach was needed in my hastily written reply.

## IMPACT:

Dude!!!! This article was heavy (*Overpriced Musings - A New Pair of Shoes for the Slippery Slope of Christianity*, by Don Pflaster, Issue #22). Not lead-weight heavy, but Jimi-burning-his-guitar & chinese-kid-before-the-tank heavy. you have my respect. But...

I have to disagree with you on one key point. i.e. - leaving technology in the hands of [scientists]. I have read, and it seems to me to be true, that the worst abuses of any new knowledge have come in the time between a few people learning of it, and the vast majority learning of it (Herbert's "Data Gap"). Take computers: we've had computers, albeit clunky ones, since the late 50's, but they didn't get really interesting until a couple of pot-heads could hack the tech in their garage. Nuclear power, available for about as long as computers, didn't start generat-

ing electricity or helping treat cancer until years after it had been used to destroy two cities (I'm not touching the right/wrong debate about that, either).

While I share your discomfort over the fact that any radical or 2-bit terrorist can cook up enough anthrax to kill us all, I don't think it's the fact of the weapon (a.k.a. tool) that we should really be scared about. What really frightens me is the fact that despite all of the knowledge and experience we've gained as a race (humans, not black/white/brown/red) there are STILL a large percentage of "Archie Bunker Wannabes" (yes, I stole that quote from the prison article), who pay no attention whatsoever to ANY philosopher, and seem content to attack any scapegoat, no matter how bizarre or unrealistic that scapegoat may be, as long as they don't have to examine their own, basic assumptions about the universe. Fundamentalists, rednecks, religious fanatics, whatever! these people were around when the best weapon was a stone ax, and they'll be around when we can decide whether or not our children should be born with wings. Turning our backs on technology, and leaving it to "professionals" (priests, scientists, experts, etc...) is like sticking our heads in the sand. Sticking your head in the sand is, in my humble opinion, the best way to get your ass shot off.

Anyways, I did like the article, and I did buy that Bishop Sponge book "rescuing the bible". I'm not a Christian, but you were right, that was a damn good book. If that guy gets a chance to speak to a large audience, I think that religion might actually be worth a shit in a couple of years.....

Vintarg

## IMPACT:

A few things to comment on:

1) At the end of many articles, you often list websites, encouraging people to "make an impact." This is a great way to help people become active. I have just one suggestion - that mailing addresses also be included with the various websites. It's important to remember that there are still plenty of folks out there who don't own a computer and/or are computer illiterate.

2) Regarding William Kaliher's piece praising Ronald Reagan (Issue #23), I wish to know what planet Mr. Kaliher is living on. The Soviet Union was collapsing from internal pressures long before Reagan came along. Neither he nor Bush was responsible for the end to the Cold War, they just happened to be in the right place politically to take some of the credit.

Reagan made the world safer? How, by conducting illegal wars in Central America using CIA-backed mercenary thugs (AKA: Contras)? By trying to start an arms race in space with his Space Based Defensive Initiative scheme? Even had such a proposal worked, it would have failed to protect North America sufficiently in the event of a nuclear exchange. In other words, we're still fried.

Closer to home, his administration accelerated this madness called the Drug War, doing little more than imprisoning larger numbers of otherwise non-violent people. While AIDS reached crises proportions, Reagan dragged his feet in allocating funds for even the most basic of prevention measures. And, he sought to deny women the right to have an abortion from the beginning.

In the economic sphere, the Congressional Budget Office shows that in 1980, the richest fifth in this country had eight times the income of the poorest fifth. By 1989, that ratio was 20 to 1. True, some of the Democratic programs were failures. But Reagan's solutions, privatizing everything and strip-mining taxes for the military is a complete disaster. Poorly funded education and a lack of universal health-care are the real "child abuse, crime and fraud" of which Mr. Kaliher speaks. The ignorant politics of the religious right and corporate welfare, both Reagan trademarks, are debts that we are still paying. Some things to think about before laying the bricks for the Church of Reagan.

I was going to comment on animal rights/vegetarianism, but I'll save that for another letter. Although it's sometimes difficult to tell what direction Impact is coming from, I find it a worthy effort. Carry on!

Sincerely,  
Bruce Mark Nevin

# Speak Your Mind. . .

Please proof your letters. IMPACT will try to decipher them. However, help us avoid having to do extra work. ALSO - keep your letters under 400 words. Thanks!

## IMPACT:

It seems that Rachel H. O'Kelly (December/January '99-00, letter featured in the Speak Your Mind section on page #5) has her history wrong in her tirade against blacks and affirmative action. She thinks that the invasion of white men into this country has made life easier for non-white people. Did she get a different history lesson than I and many others did? White men were not the "founders" of this country. Remember, the Native Americans were here first!

Ms. O'Kelly has plenty of animosity against blacks and their struggle for equality. She also claims that the blacks would not be where they are if it weren't for the "help" of whitey. She is actually correct about that! It was the white men that went over to Africa and kidnapped black people so that they (white men) could have slave labor. It was white men who had the segregation laws.

The white men have done a lot for other countries, such as colonialism. Think of where India, Hong Kong, and other countries would be if it weren't for the white man!

I don't hate Rachel H. O'Kelly. I just pity her for her own hate and ignorance.

H. Allison Hergenrother

## IMPACT:

In response to Morris Sullivan's article on how our society is becoming more matriarchal; take a good look at certain conservative groups. You know who I'm talking about; All those "right-minded" people who say that the woman's place is in the home, cooking, cleaning, looking after the kids, being submissive to their husbands, etc.

Am I the only one to have noticed that most of those groups are headed by women? Also, if you look real close at the personal lives of those women who tell the women of mainstream America to "know their place", you might notice that they rule their own households with an iron fist. In relation to Mr. Sullivan's other article in this issue of Impact, you might take note that the Kansas

board of education is headed by, you guessed it, a woman.

As much as my male ego hates to admit it, Mr. Sullivan is right. Women are taking over. If you need more evidence of this fact, think of all the guys you know who can cook, and all the women you know who can't, and of all those "stay at home" mothers who somehow manage to get out whenever they want (while leaving the kids home with hubby), while they utterly control the family finances. It's scary.

Regards,  
Steve Moutray

## IMPACT:

I just wanted to drop you a line and contribute to any well-deserved praise you receive for your publication. It's almost a shock to find a paper teeming with political stances and well-researched reports, well written with the intent to inspire some movement among the frighteningly lazy generation at hand. I'm amazingly pleased to see that a publication like yours exists, and I feel we need much more of it to turn around our entertainment-savvy, thoughtless peers. Thank you for taking the risk of putting out Impact.

My only fleeting complaint is your lack of interesting layout which, although . . . I understand that the message in the words is far more important than some aesthetically pleasing piece of paper, does make any article more inviting if there are pictures or, at the very least, captions interspersed

amongst the text.

Regardless, thank you for putting out Impact, and I wish you well in the future.

Take care.  
Jason

## IMPACT:

I agree with your observations (Issue #24: Notes from the Cultural Wasteland by Morris Sullivan). It may be a survival response of humanity to balance the scales before the point of no return, or a shift in the cycles and patterns that are evident in history. I think the world is hungry for Herstory. Look at the male/ female ratio at most colleges across the nation. If education leads to power, than the leaders of tomorrow will be the students of today. It may be the first step toward a balanced society with gender equality, something that will take centuries, like you said. Good article!

Jake Spinoza

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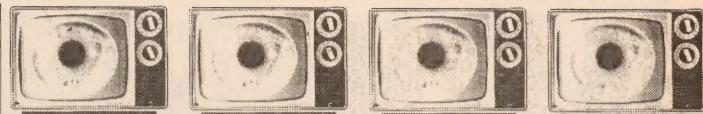
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# BIG BROTHER



BY SUSAN STERLING

## BROADCASTS THE NIGHTLY NEWS

### **Freedom of speech and freedom of discourse are not abstract ideas; they are more vital to the life of our democracy than daily blood transfusions are to Keith Richards.**

While word hit the street that the Justice Department would pursue the breakup of Bill Gates' Microsoft, the merger of Time Warner, the world's largest conventional media company, and America Online, the world's largest Internet service, was hailed as the beginning of a new era. The Wall Street Journal declared the "death of old media" while David Ignatius of the Washington Post spoke of AOL's rise to power like a dad after his kid hit his first home run at little league.

The combined company, estimated to be worth \$350 billion, will be America's fourth largest. Its interests and target audience stretch far and wide, from the premier publishing house Little, Brown to the similarly lofty intellectual heights of World Championship Wrestling. AOL is by far the largest Internet provider in the country, with some 23 million subscribers. In terms of power and influence over our everyday lives, few companies will have a more prominent voice than AOL Time Warner.

While most mainstream media are hailing the emergence of our miraculous economy (after all, bigger is always better, isn't it?), it is time we pay some attention to the coagulation of these media behemoths which are more and more frequently deciding what we see and what we hear. I am constantly astounded at how only those on the periphery of media criticism are willing to express reservations about these conglomerates.

Last year CBS merged with Viacom, and Sumner Redstone came to the helm of a \$100 billion entertainment empire, including Blockbuster, Paramount Pictures, and the CBS News Division for starters. Newlywed Rupert Murdoch's diverse NewsCorp controls hundreds of newspapers around the world, including the South China Morning Post, the Financial Times and the London Times, plus that bedrock of journalistic fortitude, the Fox News Channel.

Time Warner baron Ted Turner, who made approximately \$3 billion in last week's merger, called the deal the most exciting since his first sexual encounter when he was 19. This is arguably the most influential man in the history of news, talking about a deal which affects us all through a prism so narcissistic it makes our commander-in-briefs look like Gandhi. It's easy to see AOL and Time Warner's interests in the deal. AOL wants the cable access of Time Warner to program itself into millions and millions of additional homes. AOL is the most well-known provider on the net.

Time Warner's business is content. In this instance, please understand that content is not the same thing as substance. All Time Warner news sources, including CNN, have been watered down in enough info-tainment to make Joan and Melissa Rivers gag. When they *do* focus on politics they go over nonsense poll results on topics like whether or not Hillary Clinton should do the Letterman show from the University of Hawaii at Maui as if they are election returns. The result is the type of journalism that is starting to make Matt Drudge look like Edward R. Murrow.

The CBS/Viacom, Time Warner, and NewsCorp enterprises all seek to blind the public in 24-hour marathons of The Blame Game and South Park while there really are important issues being discussed out there. These discussions are more and more being relegated to ivory towers where professors are starting to feel like Anne Boleyn in the Tower of London. I don't begrudge the media robber barons of their loot. However, I can't help but think that Redstone, Murdoch, Turner and Steve Case are all one Mini-Me shy of becoming Dr. Evil. There is a genuine danger in the newest phenomenon, an entry-to-content corporation which controls what we see and are thus in full command of the dissemination of information.

While those in our government seek to nail down Bill Gates for his monopoly on faulty, cheap software, there is hardly a moment's notice paid to these men who control what we read and use to make decisions about not only consumption, but about our leadership and the destiny of our democracy. While I am usually unabashedly pro-business, the dissemination of information through the media is the one area where I think the public interest needs protection from corporate America. Freedom of speech and freedom of discourse are not abstract ideas; they are more vital to the life of our democracy than daily blood transfusions are to Keith Richards. The resonance of ideas will always have something to do with who has the largest bullhorn, and the big, respectable sources will always use that bigness to clobber out the dissent which it is the very essence of the First Amendment to protect. It's about time we start to leaven our optimism and pay a bit more attention to just who is deciding which news is fit to print. •

# 95.9FM

I remember the first time I saw the movie, "Pump Up The Volume." After having read a good review about it, I went to see it during its opening weekend.

The movie stars Christian Slater as a sub-urban high schooler that runs a pirate radio station from his home.

The message the movie implies is that there are those who want to be heard but can't. In the case of the movie, the voice is that of suburban teens.

Despite the comfortable surroundings of middle-class suburbia, teens feel confined. They can't express themselves the way they want to.

Slater's way of being heard is to use pirate radio. As he is being heard all across town, teens call the station and express their feelings. One touching moment is when a boy talks about his homosexuality and the crap that straight male teens give him for being gay.

The reason for bringing up "Pump Up The Volume" is because recently, I have been listening to a pirate radio station here in Orlando. The station is 95.9FM, a hip-hop station.

Even though what they are doing is illegal, I applaud the station. This is what Orlando needs, true representation of hip-hop.

When hip-hop gets played on the legal stations, too many times it

are also in my CD collection.

What I don't like is that all of a sudden, fusing rap with heavy metal seems to be so cool.

Mainstream media is just eating this shit up.

I asked a white friend, why this *phenomena* is so popular now? Why the onslaught of rap/metal acts?

My friend broke it down in a very simple way. It was something I should've known myself but yet, this ordinary looking white guy told it to me.

What did he say? What did he tell the supposed-to-be-hip black man?

Rap is where the money is.

Damn!!! And what he said made sense, too.

At one time, sales for rock music slumped. Hip hop was still making mo' money and mo' money.

I hate to bring up race. Still, I have to.

# mind power



by patrick scott barnes

## Instead of hearing the doom and the gloom of current rock music, sub-urban whites wanted to 'back that azz up!'

is the mutated commercialized version. It isn't as if I don't care for the likes of Jay Z, Tupac or Notorious B.I.G. In fact the late Notorious B.I.G. is one of my favorite rappers.

The problem I have is the fact that what was once an underground phenomena, the gangsta image, is now a gimmick being marketed by greedy corporate types. This is a shame, because all hip-hop is not about *pimpin' hoes*, and *bustin' a cap in some nigga's ass*.

Of course, corporate radio doesn't play music with profane lyrics. Still, the gangsta image is there in the music.

Hip-hop isn't the only form of music that gets exploited. Rock music is done the same way, too. Right after the fresh taste of the rock group Nirvana, the word "alternative" became the marketing word to sell records.

Now, the hip thing in rock music is to infuse heavy metal with rap. Now, let me get this said before some bullshit starts. I have nothing against that. Rage Against The Machine is in my CD collection.

I, also, have nothing against white rappers. Eminem and Everlast

It is a little known fact that 80% of the hip hop consumers are suburban whites. This explains why sales for rock music fell.

Instead of hearing the doom and the gloom of current rock music, suburban whites wanted to back that azz up!

In order to get back the suburban money, record companies started marketing the rap/metal acts.

Now this scene may look very familiar to those that follow the history of American pop music. That's because it is a familiar scene. It is the same scene that gave us Elvis Presley, *borrowing* musical styles from black artists to make a buck.

This is why I listen to 95.9 every chance I get. On this station, a person gets real hip-hop not some commercial crap that smells of trying to get a quick buck.

Another thing I like about 95.9 is the fact that they play all regions of the hip-hop community. They play east coast, west coast, mid-west and the Dirty South (southern rap).

For years, I've argued with folks that that's how to do things. I've

(RADIO, continued on page 21)



# TJWalker.com

Original News and Perspective on Politics, Media and Culture

## In Defense of S. Carolina's Rebel Flag

We live in an era where every former two-bit Klansman, right wing TV preacher, and "states' rights" advocate pretends to be a liberal on race matters, even taking the time to quote (out-of-context) the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., someone they reviled when he was alive and more threatening. So, I applaud South Carolina's decision to continue to fly the Rebel Flag over its Capitol. Honesty and candor among politicians are rare, especially when they can lead to useful ends.

Useful? Of course. Say you are Mark Fuhrman and you are tired of the cold Idaho winters and you want to move to another state where your views and culture will fit right in. Mark could look at the Rebel Flag as his own personal Welcome Wagon.

The Flag may also attract other luminaries to move to South Carolina. Let's say John Rocker retires from the Atlanta Braves and is trying to pick a state to launch his political career. Obviously, my fellow North Carolinians will be pleading with Rocker to move there in order to fill Sen. Jesse Helms' seat, should he retire this millennium. But party leaders in South Carolina are going to have a much stronger recruiting tool when they try to woo Rocker to replace Sen. Strom Thurmond. "You can be our spokesman," is going to have double the appeal when walking under the flapping Rebel Flag.

The flag also provides useful information to the financial markets. Wealthy foreign interests are always trying to find the perfect locale for an American factory or office. If they are looking for a state that has a strong supply of educated workers and a culture of diversity, they won't have to waste time investigating the Palmetto State. On the other hand, if you are another BMW automobile manufacturer and you are looking for a state where everyone is so dumb that they are willing to give away \$250,000 in tax breaks, subsidies and land deals for every \$25,000 a year factory job you give them, the Flag says you can still do business there.

As an Internet entrepreneur currently involved with the Venture Capital money chase myself, I especially appreciate South Carolina's flag actions. I hardly have to worry about wealthy finan-

ciers moving away from the Northeast. Picking through business plans for white sheet factories or innovative miniature golf in Myrtle Beach is not the way most VCs choose to spend their days.

The Flag is also helpful in exposing liberal hypocrisy. Liberals claim to love diversity, differing cultures, variant customs, etc. But liberals are amazingly intolerant toward stupid people who enjoy being stupid and wish to remain stupid. South Carolina's Rebel Flag waving is a beacon of hope for stupid people everywhere. It ought naught be taken down capriciously.

Think of how this whole flag controversy has enhanced the self-

---

*South Carolina's Rebel Flag waving is a beacon of hope for stupid people everywhere. It ought naught be taken down capriciously.*

---

esteem of citizens in Alabama and Mississippi. Now, even they have a state to look down upon.

Every state claims to be the "most beautiful," have the "hardest working people," et cetera, ad nauseum. Finally, a state is being honest about its only useful, real distinction. Flying the Rebel Flag is an almost-polite way of saying, "Come to South Carolina, where you don't have to be embarrassed about using the N-word."

Why not add the Rebel Flag on top of every state, county, and local building and school in South Carolina? •

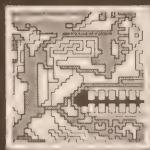
**TJ Walker** is the Producer of TJWalker.Com, a news and information service that provides daily radio, television, and text news and perspective. A syndicated columnist and news analyst, Walker frequently appears on the Fox News Channel, MSNBC, Court TV and talk radio programs around the country.

Formerly, Walker worked for Congress and as the Director of Communications for the Florida Department of Banking and Finance. He graduated magna cum laude from Duke University. Walker was raised in North Carolina and resides in New York City.

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## You can't vote for him. **He's actually worthy!**

Politics is a quirky little business, and there can be no doubt about it being one of the most difficult occupations ever to exist. But what's so hard about it, really? I never thought it was difficult to have an idea, or to feel noble enough to represent your constituency and have their concerns voiced to the highest reaches of the republic through you. All that's really required is a few public speaking skills and giddy sense of self-importance.

As easy as it seems to be, I could never be a politician. And I'm sure many of you who make less than \$100,000 a year, the true pulse of the nation, couldn't do it either. If politics were truly about ideas and government of, by, and for the people, you'd be hearing a lot more people on C-SPAN that talk a little more like you... with honesty and substance to their modes of speech. You'd also see a lot more attention in the media to lower-class citizens who can't afford airtime, but have really interesting and workable ideas (or at least offering conveyances of what life is like as a peon.) I would think around election time the stations could go just a little bit out of their way to hear a few of these departures from the norm.

A few outspoken freaks may once in a while make it into politics and into the headlines, but, for the most part, political-speak is much like business-speak: evasive, dry, and predictable.

The reason I think many of us don't want anything to do with politics (besides low-self esteem and lack of faith in the human race) is because we don't want to be evasive, dry, and predictable. President of the United States should be a job for an enlightened philosophical supergenius who can do away with war and cruelty by making compelling broadcast speeches about the futility and pain of hostility and mistrust. Instead we have a leadership performing incremental tasks which scarcely make a dent in the attitude of the world as a whole. Because of the great many who want to be powerful, it seems that few can rise to that level without first selling their soul, subduing their passions, and taking on a new form.

This effectively switches the goal of politics from "love of the world and your neighbor" to "destroy all who oppose you." Because if you're not going to try to destroy them, they'll destroy you first.

Bitterness and resentment between people because of their political alignment is boring, and should definitely not have any place in the highest 500 or so seats in the American Government. It has somehow become commonplace, and we ended up with only two parties to choose from (two worthwhile parties, anyway.) This division has polarized Americans and made them believe that stupid old saying, "There are two kinds of people in the world, etc." And so in the void of the few real differences between the parties, language comes into play to make the tenets (and people) of your own party seem more agreeable than the other. To that end, Newt Gingrich's

GOPAC Republican training committee released in a memo titled "Language: A Key Mechanism of Control" the following list of "Optimistic Positive Governing Words" to be used in tandem with describing your political platform or administration. Thanks are in order to Al Franken's book, Rush Limbaugh is a Big Fat Idiot, for compiling them.

*Share, change, opportunity, challenge, truth, moral, courage, reform, prosperity, children, family, active(ly), we/us/our, candid(ly), humane, pristine, liberty, principle(d), precious, care(ing), listen, help, lead, vision, empower(ment), citizen, activist, dream, freedom, peace, rights, proud/pride, preserve, pro-issue (flag, children, environment), workfare, eliminate good time in prison, strength, fair, protect, incentive, hard work, common sense*

The memo also suggests "contrasting" words to use while describing your opponent:

*Decay, failure(fail), collapse(ing), deeper, crisis, destructive, destroy, sick, pathetic, lie, liberal, they/them, "compassion" is not enough, traitors, hypocrisy, radical, devour, waste, corruption, incompetent, permissive attitude, impose, self-serving, greed, ideological, anti-issue (flag, family, child, jobs), pessimistic, welfare, corrupt, insensitive, status quo, taxes, spend(ing), shame, disgrace, punish, bizarre, cynicism, cheat, steal, machine, bosses, criminal rights, red tape*

Zzz... \*snort\* oh my! I'm awake. How's that for language that's emptier than O.J.'s wallet? My sparkling new way of selecting candidates is to keep this list of egregious, pompous swill handy when I listen to debates and speeches and vote for the candidate that uses these trite, now-meaningless words the least. And of course, politics has always been about voting for the candidate you dislike the least.

I just heard President Clinton's Weekly radio address which stated that unemployment rates are the lowest they've been in 25 years.

*(OPTIONS, continued on page 46)*



art by eachan

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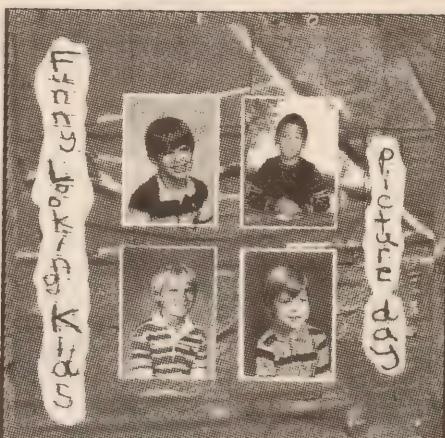
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# Ben & Jerry's Crusade for Peace and Nonviolence (Except for Cows, of Course)

By Erik Marcus

Is there a company whose reputation for conscientious behavior can equal that of Ben & Jerry's? As I write this, the front page of the company's web site is devoted to celebrating the life of Martin Luther King. And while some might be tempted to call this lip-service, the company consistently puts its money where its mouth is. Each year, Ben & Jerry's gives 7.5% of its pre-tax profit to charity.

Yet for all Ben & Jerry's good deeds, this is a company that surely creates vastly more suffering than it alleviates. For despite its counterculture "Cherry Garcia" credibility, Ben & Jerry's is awash in the blood of many, many animals.

Cows, even cows from bucolic Vermont, are almost always slaughtered after four or five annual milking cycles. So to produce its ice cream, Ben & Jerry's requires the slaughter of about 12 cows every day. And over 23,000 cows are impregnated each year in order to produce the milk fat purchased by the company. A substantial number of the resultant calves are put in veal crates and slaughtered before maturity.

Some would argue that in merely purchasing milk, Ben & Jerry's is not responsible for the resultant slaughter. When *Salon* magazine published a letter of mine from which this article is adapted, I soon received a number of angry letters in response. One person wrote:

*Ben and Jerry's isn't operating off of the slaughter of dairy cows; they're operating off of the milking of them! And how can Marcus hold them responsible for the demise of these animals? That's the work of the industry that owns them.*

My reply to his letter included these remarks:

*The milking of these animals inevitably leads to slaughter, and not just occasionally, either. Slaughter is the fate of every dairy cow that doesn't die prematurely of disease. As X amount of milk demands Y amount of slaughter. I can't see how you can draw any other conclusion than that Ben and Jerry's is directly responsible for the cows slaughtered as a result of the milk they purchase.*

I believe that Ben & Jerry's would do well to heed the words of Dr. King which are currently emblazoned across the company's home page.

*He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who attempts to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it.*

To produce its ice cream, Ben & Jerry's requires the slaughter of about 12 cows every day. And over 23,000 cows are impregnated each year in order to produce the milk fat purchased by the company.

What could be more consistent with Dr. King's words, and with Ben & Jerry's company philosophy, than to acknowledge its ties to an industry of incredible exploitation? Like no other company, Ben & Jerry's is in a wonderful position to develop and aggressively market delicious products that do not demand the exploitation of animals. Already, their line of superb vegan sorbets hints at what the company could accomplish if it made a priority of expanding the market share of delicious dairy-free desserts.

Thanks to the burgeoning soyfoods industry, milk and ice cream are obsolete in terms of ethics, health, and taste. Currently, however, Ben and Jerry's noble ethics stop short where animals are concerned. As of now, despite their fun-loving image and reputation for good deeds, few companies are as responsible for so much anguish and bloodshed.

While we wait for Ben & Jerry's to take a leadership role, those of us whose concern extends to the well-being of animals can take action by choosing vegan desserts at every opportunity. \*

Erik Marcus is the publisher of *Vegan.com* and the author of *Vegan: The New Ethics of Eating...* Complete footnotes to the claims made in this article are available at: <http://www.vegan.com/issues/1999/dec99/SalonReferences.htm>



# Bull's-eye

## Targeting free speech

by Scott Bledsoe

### AS THE DEBATE FOR DRUG LAW REFORM HEATS UP

all across the country, many well-known people are beginning to speak out. Woody Harrelson, Willie Nelson, Donald Trump, William F. Buckley, and even New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson have been among those criticizing and offering alternatives to the current drug war. Even with these movers and shakers openly advocating a different approach, talking about the drug war can be dangerous business. The biggest faction opposed to drug law reform is law enforcement who, for the most part, are content to ignore activists or quietly oppose them. However, a growing number of police departments empowered with a litany of zero tolerance laws are targeting those who exercise their free speech rights, especially when it comes to drugs. A number of activists have been singled out for no-knock, warrantless, forced entries by paramilitary task forces, ruse traffic stops, and even harassing phone calls by police. Law enforcement will stop at nothing, it seems, to quiet those critical of their handling of drug laws.

In one quite humorous case, Cannabis Action Network founder Kevin Aplin was asked to leave a public park while at a Hemp Rally in Tyler, Texas. This was one in a series of events designed to raise awareness of industrial and recreational uses of marijuana. When police asked Aplin to shut down the rally he refused and police seized a one pound bag of sterilized industrial hemp seeds from his display. The seeds were purchased over the counter in Texas and are legal in the United States. Four months later, Aplin was arrested for felony possession of marijuana at the Hemp Museum in New Orleans. After an exhaustive legal battle, Mr Aplin won the right to not be extradited.

Upon news of his victory, Aplin returned to Texas. He went to the Capitol with hemp seeds taped all over his body and attempted to



turn himself in to Texas Governor Ann Richards. With warrant in hand, the capitol police refused to arrest him. A few days later, Aplin was arrested in Tyler, when he turned himself in to local authorities. Aplin was convicted after the DEA testified that Aplin's seeds had sprouted in a laboratory. His conviction was later overturned on appeal because the State of Texas had no procedures for testing seeds. Aplin has been laughing about the case ever since. "I told them I was indigent, provided receipts for the seeds where they had been purchased legally, yet they spent untold thousands flying in DEA agents trying to convict me," said Aplin.

This was a six-year legal battle designed to intimidate and drain the resources of an activist. The prosecutor, Joe Black, even said over objection at the trial, "Don't give Mr. Aplin a license to come back to this community and preach his message of marijuana legalization."

In another case, which is not so funny, a letter printed in the New York Times led to one fellow's worst nightmare. "Mr. Mara" (name changed to protect identity), a research fellow at the Hoover Institution wrote a letter to the editor blasting the paper's condemnation of drug law reform efforts. "Three days later", says Mara, "a SWAT Team entered his house using a battering ram at

**A growing number of police departments empowered with a litany of zero tolerance laws are targeting those who exercise their free speech rights, especially when it comes to drugs.**

# Law enforcement will stop at nothing, it seems, to quiet those critical of their handling of drug laws.

five in the morning." According to Mara, they were yelling and screaming, waving automatic rifles, and threatening to shoot his dog if he didn't divulge the location of his stash. "They handcuffed everyone in the house including my 86-year old grandmother and began demanding for us to show them the drugs!" exclaims Mara. When no drugs were found they explained to Mara that he should be more careful with what he writes and consider the consequences of his action in the future. Mara says he has been afraid to even talk about the issues and has decided to simply talk to people one on one.

In yet one more shocking example of this fascist censorship of free speech, well-known author Peter McWilliams has become the center of controversy by simply paying someone for helping him write a book.

McWilliams is the author of several New York Times best sellers including, "The Personal Computer Book," "How to Survive the Loss of a Love," "How to Heal Depression," "Do It! Let's Get Off Our Butts (The Life 101 Series)," and "Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do: The Absurdity of Consensual Crimes in Our Free Country." McWilliams has appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show, Larry King (both radio and television), Donahue, and Sally Jessy Raphael. In 1996, Peter was diagnosed with AIDS and non-Hodgkin's

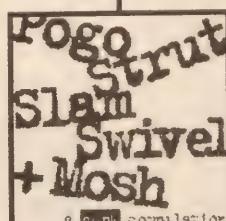
lymphoma. When the AIDS drugs and chemotherapy caused McWilliams to suffer extreme nausea, he turned to using medical marijuana. The marijuana ended his nausea and he was able to continue with treatment. His cancer went into remission and his AIDS was undetectable. After that, McWilliams promised he would attempt to help others learn about using marijuana medicinally.

In the fall of 1996, McWilliams met Todd McCormick, who was also a medical marijuana patient and an expert at growing the best strains. Peter commissioned Todd to write "How to Grow Medical Marijuana." In July of 1997, fifty of the DEA's finest stormed McCormick's home to arrest him for growing marijuana. When Peter learned of the arrest he immediately began a public relations campaign to criticize the DEA's motives. Shortly after, McWilliams was questioned by the DEA. During questioning, they called him a traitor to their cause by producing literature that spoke out against law enforcement and the Vietnam War. They also accused him of financing McCormick's marijuana cultivation. On July 23, 1999, nineteen days after McWilliams gave a speech at the Libertarian National Convention in Washington, DC, he was arrested for aiding and abetting the manufacture of a controlled substance and arraigned in federal court. Meanwhile, he is out on bail. The conditions of his bail, however, prevent him from using marijuana.

(DRUGS. continues on page 21)

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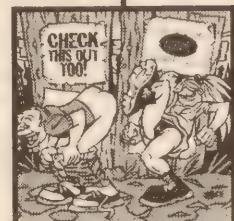
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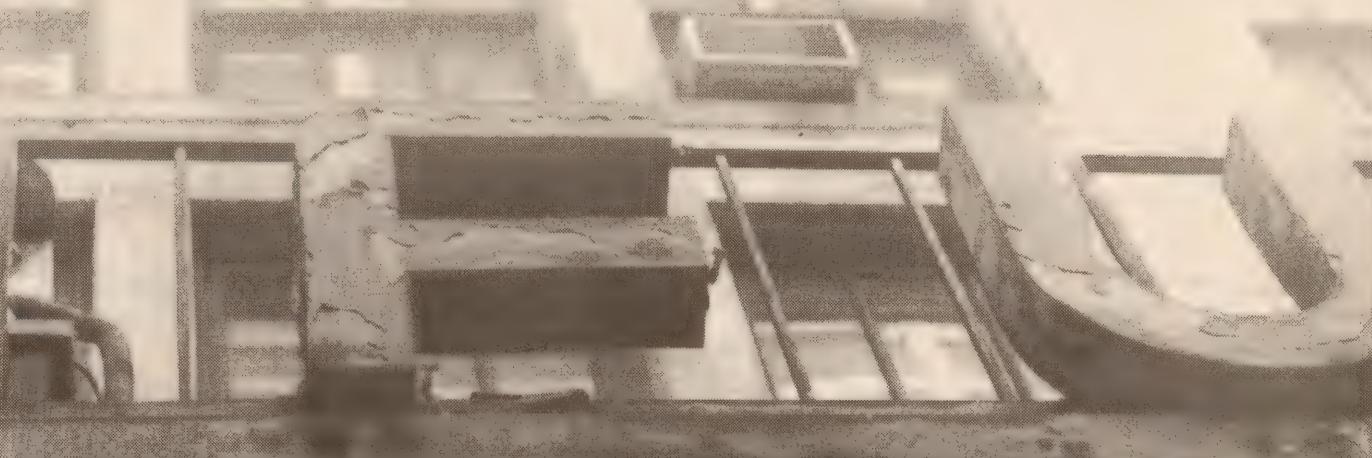
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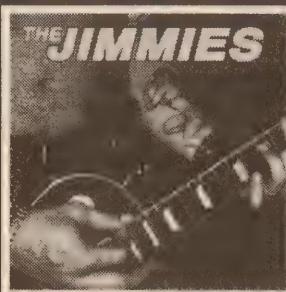


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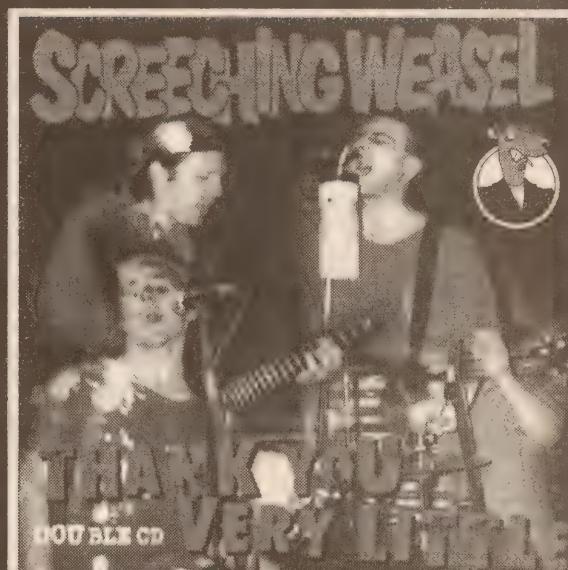
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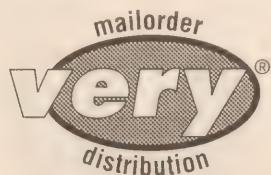
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# Heisting the radio waves

(RADIO. continued from page 9)

ran into too many folks in the local hip-hop community who couldn't comprehend diversity. I've said too many times that, in order to get a breathing hip-hop scene going in Orlando, a person has to play all regions of hip-hop.....especially southern rap.

A person cannot do a northern scene in a southern town. Fortunately, 95.9 comprehends that. The Dog Pound pirate station comprehended that, too.

(The next person I see or hear trying pull an all New York Style scene is going to turn *me* into a gangsta and is gonna make *me* wanna bust some caps!)

The Dog Pound came before 95.9. (I don't think they're on the air, anymore.) Still, they played a diverse hip-hop set. The difference between the two stations was that The Dog Pound played more music that had heavy bass to it. The Dog Pound, also, only played

the censored versions of records. 95.9 plays the uncensored versions.

Now, some folks may not like my condoning pirate radio stations. As mentioned before, unlicensed radio stationing is illegal. It can lead up to \$100,000 in fines and one year in prison.

Still, I can't help but notice how the mainstream mutates art.

I, also, go along the lines of what Mark Padgett wrote in the Orlando Weekly, the difficulties of low-income communities getting their voices heard on the radio. In one article in the Orlando Sentinel, the Dog Pound talked about how expensive it is to get a legal radio station going.

This whole thing reminds me of "Pump of the Volume", people trying to get their voices heard but having difficulty doing it.

This is why I'm going to keep supporting 95.9FM. •

## War on drug activists

(DRUGS, continued from page 17)

His cancer is back and his AIDS has caused him to become violently ill. McWilliams, someone who has given so much to society, now lies sick and downtrodden, waiting for trial, because he wanted others to learn what he had.

These are just a few examples. I myself have been targeted in my hometown of Jacksonville, because I have successfully sued them in federal court three times, with more on the way, for violating my civil rights.

There are always collateral damages in any war. In the drug war, it may very well be the constitutional freedoms guaranteed to us as American citizens that is the first. In our government's quest for the perfect society, it seems they have ignored the clear warnings given us by Orwell, Bradbury, and Hitler. Law enforcement too, seems to have forgotten that they are to protect the rights of all citizens even those critical of current drug policy. As more people speak out against the tyranny created by the overzealous hatred created by the war on drugs, hopefully it will become impossible for the police to single them out. •

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I M P A C T**

American Civil Liberties Union  
<http://www.aclu.org/>

National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws  
<http://www.norml.org/>

Amnesty International - Rights For All  
<http://www.amnestyusa.org/rightsforall/>

Police Complaint Center  
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# The Fruits of Fascism: CIA—Socialism in Chile

By David Mericle • art by cachean

With the victory of Ricardo Lagos in Chile's presidential elections, many are ready to forget the fascist period and pretend that, as Isabelle Allende recently said, Chile has "come full circle." Chile is far from returning to the days of Salvador Allende and remains an intensely exploited, underdeveloped country without hope of improving its position under the current situation.

Throughout the 1960s, massive CIA operations successfully determined the outcome of Chilean elections in favor of Allende's opponents. These elections were never remotely democratic, as the CIA spent millions, more per capita than was spent in US elections at the time, to make sure its candidates won. That Allende did eventually win despite continued overwhelming CIA opposition is remarkable evidence of the tremendous popular support for socialism that existed in Chile.

The CIA operation that followed was even more despicable than the agency's pre-election activities. Under orders from President Nixon to "make the economy scream," the CIA and Ambassador Edward Korry did everything "within [their] power to condemn Chile and the Chileans to utmost deprivation and poverty." The sabotage campaign was highly successful in destroying the Chilean economy, but it was not enough to remove Dr. Allende, who persisted with such dreadful projects as giving milk to starving children.

As alternatives to subversion, the CIA was also heavily supporting the army and a group of University of Chicago-trained economists, disciples of Milton Friedman. The fascist army needed the economists to tell them how to run the country, and the economists needed the fascists in power to be able to implement their program. The two US-backed groups joined forces, and after the fascist army led by General Pinochet overthrew Allende in a bloody coup and murdered tens of thousands of potential opposition figures, the "Chicago Boys" began transforming the Chilean economy in accordance with the free-market theories they learned

from Friedman.

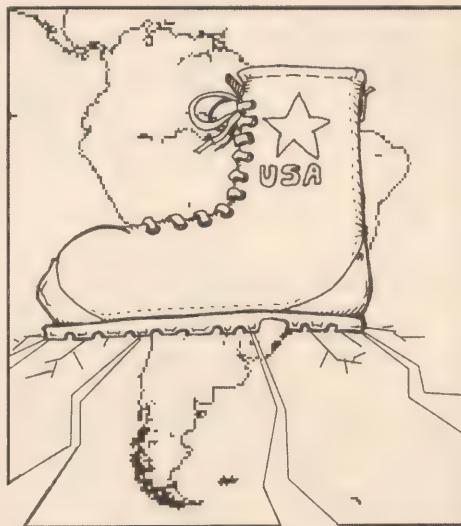
The results were catastrophic. Antonio Garza Morales wrote in *Excelsior* that the number of Chileans considered poor rose from 1 million to 7 million over the course of Pinochet's rule, with the population remaining at about 12 million throughout the period. The Chicago Boys and the IMF/World Bank kept unemployment high to depress the wage level, while the fascists made their

contribution by crippling the labor movement. During the period, real wages did not rise and per capita consumption actually fell, a disastrous waste of a decade and a half for a country struggling against underdevelopment. The fascist-imperialist alliance also destroyed the social service system, left Chile with one of the world's worst foreign debts, and made Santiago one of the world's most polluted cities.

For the ruling class, fascist rule proved quite advantageous. As Pinochet's government proudly insisted, 10% of the population did benefit significantly, and to Pinochet, this was the only portion of the population that mattered. Milton Friedman judged the change "an economic miracle." Needless to say, 90% of Chileans disagreed.

Throughout the 1960s, massive CIA operations

These elections were never remotely democratic.



successfully determined the outcome of Chilean

elections in favor of Allende's opponents.

What Andre Gunder Frank called "economic genocide" was not Chile's only problem during Pinochet's rule. Pinochet and his cohorts murdered around 30,000 people with the knowledge and support of the United States. Friedman's attempt to distance himself from the fascist regime was humorously countered by his students themselves, who frankly admitted that they could never have carried out their teacher's policies without a military dictatorship to crush popular opposition.

Chile is surely slightly better off with Lagos than presidential contender Joaquin Lavin, a University of Chicago-trained ex-Pinochet employee who heads the nearly fascist opposition party. But there should be no illusions that the two candidates were significantly different. Lagos has announced plans to stock his

government with IMF-trained economists and has made it clear that he intends for the Chilean Socialist Party to become just another business party. He even opposed General Pinochet's extradition to Spain, though under popular pressure, he said he would not prevent a trial – which would seem to be overkill in Pinochet's case – in Chile.

Lagos and the modern Chilean Socialist Party have not only failed to learn the lessons of the party's past, but have entirely forgotten Chile's real history. Lagos blamed Allende and his Socialist government for the economic problems created by the CIA, and Ricardo Nuñez Muñoz, the president of the Socialist party, told the *NY Times*, "It's wrong to say that the CIA, the armed forces and the bourgeoisie alone brought down the Allende government. It's obvious we need to admit we made critical economic and political errors that were as decisive if not more decisive." These lies are especially appalling in light of the CIA itself having admitted in the form of now-declassified documents that it was responsible for producing the chaos in Chile.

Lagos recently promised New Deal-type legislation to create 300,000 jobs. Such a program would fail to rescue Chile from underdevelopment to a far greater extent than it failed to save the US from the Great Depression, though a critique along these lines is not even relevant. Even such a moderately progressive project is not possible in Chile today, because no amount of support at the polls can overcome the opposition of the IMF/World Bank and other imperialist agencies, Chilean and foreign businesses, and other

comprador and reactionary elements in Chile.

The Chilean experience reveals a great deal about the nature of US imperialism that should not be forgotten by the people of any part of the American Empire. The United States' brutal opposition to a Latin American president merely giving milk to starving children can only be interpreted as meaning that a reaction many times worse could be expected if such a country actually made serious efforts at development (the recent history of Cuba and Nicaragua of course confirm that this is exactly the case). The US response to Allende exposes the futility of attempting to free a nation from the chains of underdevelopment without first breaking the iron bonds of imperialism. Until Lagos and the Chilean Socialist Party realize this, real progress in Chile will be impossible. •

## M a k e a n I M P A C T

The Truth About Pinochet  
<http://www.lakota.clara.net/>

Chile Information Project  
<http://www.chip.cl/>

Derechos Chile  
<http://www.derechoschile.com/>

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# Vowing for Equality: Same Sex Marriage



by  
Adam  
Finley  
art by  
Marty Kelley

**DURING THE PAST DECADE, with states like Hawaii and Vermont fighting for the right for same-sex couples to marry, other states have begun to amend their constitutions to stop this change from ever happening.**

**We can't, as a nation, seem to welcome the word "gay" into our lives. Gays in the military, gays in our schools, gays on TV, gay anything. We allow gays to serve in the military as long as they don't give mention to the fact, and we tolerate television shows with gay characters as long as they don't get "too gay" for our collective taste.**

When the idea of homosexuals being put into roles that have always been given to heterosexuals is brought up, the conversation is thrown into a tailspin, with voices on one side shouting for gay rights, and voices on the other insisting such actions only lead to the further deterioration of our moral fabric.

But what about basic human rights? Ask anyone, conservative or liberal, if there is such a thing as basic human rights, and they will undoubtedly answer "yes." Of course, the more thoughtful ones will hasten to add an obligatory "but" to this statement. Yes, of course every human being has certain rights, but when you bring homosexuals into the picture, you're talking about a breakdown of morality, of basic Christian values.

In the arena of gay marriage, this cry for a basic human right (the right to marry and have all the same benefits as heterosexual couples) has been met with the same backlash as any other gay issue: traditional values are stoic and should not, under any circumstances, be replaced by nontraditional ones.

First of all, it is implied in the Bible that homosexuality is a sin. And certainly, there are passages in Scripture which could be interpreted as such. But the key word here is "interpretation," what sort of values and ideals the interpreter is bringing along when he/she delves into the text. Even more important, is that this country is not steeped in Judeo-Christian values, no matter what some may believe. George Washington himself once said "The government

of the United States is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion." Our nation is "under God," admittedly, but most of our founding fathers were deists, not Christians, and felt religion should be kept out of politics entirely. So the "abomination in the face of God" argument just isn't a sound argument under our Constitution. Laws cannot be passed based on ambiguous religious values of the individual.

Nevertheless, times have quite obviously changed since George Washington made that statement. It's impossible for anyone to deny there is a breakdown of the family happening all over the United States. But can this be blamed on what seems to be a continuous trend away from so-called traditional religious values?

There is really no definite answer to this question, and it's unfair to place all anti-gay attitudes in the hands of conservative Christians, when in fact many are against homosexuality without it being a religious issue. To many people, the issue comes down to whether or not taxpayers should have to provide money to benefit individuals for whose lifestyle they do not approve.

The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund argues, however, that the cost of employers providing benefits for employees and their "domestic partners" is insignificant. And, despite unfounded fears that a high HIV rate in homosexuals would perpetuate greater cost, insurers have not raised premiums for same-sex couples seeking benefits in the work place.

Lambda further argues that, issues of cost aside, a workplace which only provides benefits for married employees is unfair, and "employees are more productive in an environment where they know that their families are secure and that their employers respect them regardless of sexual orientation and marital status."

Recently, benefits have been given to gay and lesbian couples in California under a new state law allowing them to visit their companions in medical facilities (before then, only family members were allowed visitation). The Declaration of Domestic Partnership also gives health insurance coverage to couples who qualify under the California Public Employees Retirement System. In Columbus, Ohio, Nationwide insurance agency is offering a benefits package to same-sex partners (as well as roommates and relatives who live with the eligible employee), recognizing that the traditional household has in fact changed drastically in recent years. Larger companies, such as Lotus Development Corp., Microsoft Corp., IBM, Walt Disney Co., Honeywell and Xerox are also offering benefits to same-sex domestic partners.

While it is admirable that more companies and state law makers are recognizing the legitimacy of same-sex relationships and offering benefits for them, gay and lesbian couples are still given only a fraction of the benefits acquired by heterosexual, married couples.

It is important to remember, however, that the push for same-sex marriages is based on civil marriage, the rights of each state to provide marriage licenses, not the rights of specific religious groups to decide whether these unions should be recognized or not. Again, the way the laws are constructed leaves no room for an argument based on religious moral values.

Homosexuals and gay rights activists certainly have no qualms with being moral. What creates a problem is the subjectivity of morality, whose values serve as the catalyst. If gays are indeed a promiscuous, immoral group, than their fight to legitimize same-sex marriage makes no sense, as marriage itself implies monogamy.

Advocates for the sanctity of heterosexual marriage further argue same-sex marriage will open the floodgates for even more marriage alternatives. Why not allow polygamy? Why not allow siblings to marry?

To argue for same-sex marriage, however, shouldn't mean having to go through every possible alternative and legitimizing it. There is no sound reason the idea of same-sex marriage should trigger thoughts of incestuous marriage, or of any other kind of "immoral" union between two (or more) individuals.

**Companies, such as Lotus, Microsoft, IBM, Honeywell, Disney and Xerox offer benefits to same-sex domestic partners.**

als. It was this kind of paranoia that made interracial marriage illegal until 1967.

But is it fair to group opponents of same-sex marriage into the same category as those who opposed interracial marriage just over thirty years ago? Many will argue being homosexual is a choice, unlike being a certain race. The argument has been raised that there are a lot of ex-homosexuals out there, but no ex-blacks.

Whether homosexuality is a choice or an actual part of a person's physiological make-up is up for debate, but it's difficult to fathom anyone would choose to take on a lifestyle which carries with it such harsh repercussions. Racism based on skin color or nationality is no longer tolerated by a majority of the population. Racism based on sexual preference, however, is.

Another argument against same-sex marriage is that marriage is synonymous with procreation. This is, as anyone who has married and chosen not to have kids will tell you, a complete falsehood. But this insistence that married couples are not fulfilling their roles unless they have children is a dangerous stance to take, especially in a nation where there are far more children than competent parents. The idea that a couple would recognize they aren't equipped to handle raising children and would choose not to should be revered, not scorned. Quite obviously, the attitude of "marriage equals procreation" opens up a torrent of other issues stretching beyond just same-sex marriage. The basis for having children is now based on whether or not the individuals have compatible body parts, as opposed to whether or not they have the ability to actually raise the child.

Regardless, the following statement was made by Most Reverend Joseph L. Charron, CPPS, Chairman of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Committee on Marriage and Family; and Most Reverend William S. Skalnik, Chairman of the United States Catholic Conference and Committee on Domestic Policy for the Indiana Catholic Conference:

We oppose attempts to grant the legal status of marriage to a relationship between persons of the same sex. No same-sex union can realize the unique and full potential which the marital relationship expresses. For this reason, our opposition to "same-sex marriage" is not an instance of unjust discrimination or animosity toward homosexual persons. In fact, the Catholic Church teaches emphatically that individuals and society must respect the basic human dignity of all persons, including those with a homosexual orientation. Homosexual persons have a right to and deserve respect, compassion, understanding, and defense against bigotry, attacks and abuse.

This variation of the "hate the sin/love the sinner" passage seems particularly well intended, especially emerging from the Catholic arena, which is not often so kind in its views of alternative lifestyles.

But kindness, especially in its most patronizing forms, does not grant homosexuals the full benefits and rights equated to other human beings. Gay rights activists have argued offering a handful of rights to gays and their partners is simply not enough. Lois Farnham and Holly Puterbaugh, a Vermont couple who have been together for over twenty-five years, understood this, as evidenced in a 1997 column by Deb Price in the Detroit News:

Lois and Holly, who hope to retire in nine years, were shocked to realize how vulnerable they are without a marriage license, regardless of how many other legal documents they sign. If one of them is hospitalized, there's "no 100-percent guarantee" the other will be treated as next of kin, Holly says with horror and indignation.

Lois and Holly were just one of three plaintiff couples who sued the Vermont state health department for denying them a marriage license in 1997. The case was dismissed quickly by a trial court, which argued Vermont used marriage as a promotion of procreation, despite the aforementioned fact that many couples cannot and choose not to procreate. In 1998, arguments given before the Vermont Supreme Court cast the spotlight on this distortion, and in 1999, the Court ruled to allow same-sex couples the same rights as married couples.

However, until the freedom to actually marry is recognized by the Vermont legislature, these rights will not be constitutionally guaranteed. The door has been opened, but it can, in all likelihood, be slammed shut just as quickly.

In the case of *Baher vs. Lewin*, Ninia Baehr, Genora Dancel, Tammy Rodrigues, Antoinette Pregil, Pat Lagon, and Joseph Melillo sued John Lewin, Director of Department of Health, State of Hawaii for denying them marriage applications on the grounds the couples were of the same sex. After being dismissed by circuit court, the plaintiffs appealed to the Hawaii Supreme Court, which held the decision to be sex discrimination and sent the case back down to circuit court, demanding proof of a "compelling state interest" for the discrimination of same-sex couples.

Despite Congress passing the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in 1996, which recognizes only specific variations of marriage and denies gay and lesbian couples recognition, benefits and protection for all federal purposes, states such as Hawaii are still given the right to allow same-sex couples to marry.

Due to pressure from right-wing groups in 1998, however, an amendment was added to the Hawaii Constitution which gave the legislature the right to restrict marriage. The Court still held that denial of the freedom to marry was sex discrimination, but the plaintiffs' case eventually became dead in the water due to the passing of the new amendment.

Hawaii was on the threshold of being the first state to recognize same sex marriages, and, under the US Constitution's requirement that states grant "full faith and credit" to the acts of other states, other states would most likely have had to recognize same-sex marriages as well.

Hawaii's fight and subsequent failure to be the first state to allow same-sex marriage is exactly what makes many same-sex advocates pessimistic about the recent ruling in Vermont. Granting same-sex couples the same benefits as married couples (which includes family health coverage, medical and bereavement leave, child custody, tax benefits and pension plans) is only a small victory and can, as long as there is a strong anti-gay sentiment across the nation, be easily squelched. According to Focus on the Family, a Christian group that opposes same-sex marriages, a bill has already been presented to the Vermont Legislature which would ban same-sex marriages.

States such as Vermont and Hawaii are two against many when it comes to allowing same-sex marriages. Legislatures in 31 other states continue to ban same-sex marriage and partner benefits. The Coalition for the Protection of Marriage, a group in Nevada dedicated to the "preservation of traditional marriage" is currently collecting signatures to amend an already existing state law which defines marriage as a union between individuals of the opposite sex. The reasoning behind Nevada's, and the other states' decision is fear that the "full faith and credit clause" of the US Constitution would force them to recognize gay marriage if just one state passes a law allowing it.

The recent ruling in Vermont, while still subject to defeat, serves as even stronger evidence that homosexuality may, not without a savage struggle, actually become recognized as a legitimate lifestyle. Next year, lawmakers in the Ohio House and Senate will introduce bills which will ban same-sex marriage. A similar bill was presented and defeated in 1997, but with Vermont's progressive decision, proponents feel the time is right to re-introduce the bill in order, according to a January 4 Associated Press article, "to protect families from nontraditional values others may bring into the state."

The victory for same-sex marriage advocates in Vermont may seem like an empty one, but it is clear, just by seeing how other states have scrambled to build walls against these "nontraditional values," that homosexuality, and the rights of gays to marry and acquire benefits, has garnered a cavalcade of support which can no longer be ignored. •

Legislatures  
in  
31  
other  
states  
continue to  
ban  
same-sex  
marriage  
and  
partner  
benefits.

## Make an IMPACT

### -In support of same sex marriage-

Human Rights Campaign  
<http://www.hrc.org/>

Partners Task Force for Gay and Lesbian Couples  
<http://www.buddybuddy.com>

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund  
<http://www.lambdalegal.org/>

### -Opposed to same sex marriage-

Family Research Council  
<http://www.frc.org/issues/>

# ★QUICKIES...a little bit on a lot of records★

## TOP picks



Below represents the "best of" music that was reviewed for this issue as determined by IMPACT press music reviewers.

**AM/FM** • Audiot • Skylab Operations • This solo project of Brian Sokel, most notably from the band Franklin, is a fantastic mix of catchy hooks and great melodies. From the poppy "The Death They Claim" (Track#1) to the sad guitar strains of "Poor Sense of Timing" (Track#3), Audiot is well produced and inventive. This music isn't about to change the world, but it will make you feel a lot better about living in it.

**Blackalicious** • Nia • Quannum Projects • Hip-hop is a wonderful thing, when properly used. Unfortunately, there are a lot of groups that think gangsta rhymes make them a hip-hop artist, but they're wrong. Luckily, Blackalicious (and all of Quannum) knows that it's much more than that. Hip-hop is a combination of styles and sounds, mixing funk and soul with DJs and vocalists, new school beats and old school samples and so on. The final factor is lyrics – it's not hard to write about smackin' bitches and buyin' cars. Blackalicious use their lyrics diversely – for storytelling, social commentary, verbal games, and more. The result is an album of bumpin' party tunes, straight up social lessons, hardcore rhymin', soulful rhythms and creative stylin' culminating into one of the most hip-hop albums I've ever heard. Blackalicious is Chief Xcel (DJ) and The Gift of Gab (MC), but anything on Quannum involves the family (Lateef, Lyrics Born, Erinn Anova, Joyo Velarde, and DJ Shadow) – something for everyone and nothing you wanna miss out on.

**Indecision** • Release the Cure • MIA Records • Indecision has always had favored status as they sing of subjects dear to their heart, and are an example of a band effecting change through personal progress with each new record, and, most importantly, they rock out the NYC Hardcore. I severely recommend picking up this new release and reading through the lyrics, and giving the music a chance to direct your aggression outwards ("Tunnel Vision" is an amazing track!).

**Rainer Maria** • Look Now Look Again • Polyvinyl • Holding our hand and guiding us through immediately pleasing Emo rock melodies, Rainer Maria has a great power to emotionally stimulate the listener. The timing is flawless, the vocals are dreamy, and could probably hit Jesse Ventura's soft spot. Kudos to this wonderful partnership.

**The Album Leaf** • An Orchestrated Rise To

Fall • Linkwork Records • I was blown away by this CD. Being a fan of Tristeza, I immediately picked up An Orchestrated Rise To Fall by The Album Leaf (AKA Jimmy LaValle, of the aforementioned Tristeza). This record has the melancholic feeling of Tristeza, but adds to it by employing organs and pianos, as well as guitars, to project the utter sadness that permeates this recording. He also added hum and ambience from taped conversations, field tapings and other recordings that give the listener the feeling he is at home. While Tristeza keeps some aspects of rock composing intact, LaValle strays from it a bit by dabbling in improvisational jazz and classical styles. An Orchestrated Rise To Fall is the perfect album to listen to while alone, listening to the rain outside.

**The Dismemberment Plan** • Emergency & I • DeSoto Records • Most people are familiar with this band for "The Ice of Boston," a great song. Now it's time to introduce yourself to what this band can do besides that song – and it's well worth your time. First off, The Plan knows how to write fascinating, intelligent lyrics. Luckily, they also know how to write some of the most creative, original and, at times, experimental music I've ever heard. Vocally, Travis Morrison is on-point, delivering emotion when necessary, harmony when requested and subtlety if required. This album features a mix of sounds – from soul to funk to punk to pop to electronic sampling. The one thing it doesn't feature is a bad track – it's a complete work of varying styles performed skillfully – a breath of fresh air, a change of pace, a culmination of musical greatness.

**Various Artists** • It Goes Without Saying: An Instrumental Compilation • Sign Language Records • Have you ever started listening to a CD, really liking it, until the singer opens his mouth, totally ruining the music? Well, you do not have to worry about that happening with this CD. Fourteen tracks by the likes of MxPx, Mercury, Sharks Keep Moving, The Troops, Ninety Pound Wuss, Labrea, and others, all without any singing of any kind. I was listening to this CD while driving to Miami, and it made the 4-hour drive bearable. The tempo is mostly slow, with guitar-string picking a-plenty. About one-third of the tracks pick up the pace a bit, introducing distortion and jarring you out of the trance-like mood the other slower tracks induce.

## CDs and more

**Animals On Wheels** • Nuvol / Cadira • Ninja Tune

• Andrew Coleman, AKA Animals On Wheels, has come out with his sophomore effort for Ninja Tune. He uses his skills with breakbeats to create a lounge kinda mood, accented with xylophones and other quirky sounds. This is mid-tempo stuff, folks, and some nice stuff at that. If a record could seduce the listener, this one would have you humping your speakers.

**Anti-Pop Consortium** • Tragic Epilogue • 75ark • Combining the finest elements of poetry and hip-hop, Consortium are the real deal – vocalists with rhymes that won't waste your time and beats that are divine, on time, and designed with your ears in mind. Instead of shooting bullets, words shoot from the mouths of Priest, Beans and M. Sayyid, piercing skin, entering your brain, allowing the fresh beats, delivered by E. Blaize, to be absorbed, unable to ignore. When other MCs talk smack about skills, the Consortium is paying the bills with their word-flows and abstract orchestration.

**Appleseed Cast** • Mare Vitalis • Deep Elm Records

• The title of the Appleseed Cast's latest effort, Mare Vitalis, is Latin for "sea life." It's an appropriate title given the flow of the music, as it rises and falls much like the tides. Not just a collection of songs randomly thrown together, Mare Vitalis is an incredibly powerful album meant to be listened to in its entirety. One of the best emo records I've heard in quite some time.

**Arling & Cameron** • Music for Imaginary Films • Emperor Norton Records • Gerry Arling and Richard Cameron have a vivid imagination indeed. Music for Imaginary Films is an interesting follow-up to their last CD: All-In. This entire album is composed of theme songs for shows that have never existed. Neat idea! Unfortunately, almost every tune sounds like a drawn out version of the theme from Buck Rodgers in the 21st Century. Without vocals to break up this 70's TV show sound, Arling & Cameron makes for some tedious tunes. Big kudos, however, for Hashi the drug-sniffing canine.

**A-Set** • Songs From The Red Room • Tree Records

• This follow-up to The Science of Living Things tries to distance itself from the Lo-Fi label A-Set had earned for themselves, and for the most part, it succeeds. I would describe the music (12-songs worth) as a blend of emo and pop, using electric guitars but no distortion. "Pick-A-Lie" has a happy Beatles feel to it, while "Blue Girl" is a sad little instrumental track.

**Billy Dechand** • Pop Another Cork • Muss My Hair Records • Dechand is the singer/songwriter for this 8-song album. Most of the music is simple, yet creative, psuedo-artsy pop. Some times, it reminds me of an acoustic-jangly-pop version of Smoking Popes. Other times it reminds me of Jawbox or Dismemberment Plan (their experimental sounds, not their intensity). (Note: Ignore track five cause it sucks compared to the rest.)

**Broken Hope** • Grotesque Blessings • Martyr Music Corporation • Necro-Fellatio, Chemically Castrated, Hate Machine, Christ Consumed... Do I need to go on? This is evil music that would make Tipper Gore shit in her nasty old underpants. Fast, furious, sweaty and screaming, it is pretty typical of the death-metal scene. If you dig that kind of stuff, you won't be disappointed.

**Bulemics/River City Rapists** • Full on Hate Fuck

• Man's Ruin • I'm getting really bored with all these "hatepunk" bands. First, they probably aren't nearly as big of assholes as they want you to think, it's just what works for them. The music is drunken punk rock with childish lyrics: "Let's fuck, anywhere,

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everywhere. cause I don't care, let's fuck!" The only thing to really note about this album are two of the musicians. Doug Didgit (Didjits) and Rex Everything (Dwarves). The rest is southern-fried, garage punk that isn't bad, it just isn't that great.

**Catchpenny** • *Dajom* • Next Records • It took me a few minutes to realize what I was hearing. This is the music that you hear when really trendy shows (e.g. Friends, Ally McBeal, etc.) come on. This is the kind of music that becomes the theme songs to shows like these. It's very pop-oriented and, I suppose that if you like that sort of thing, it's good.

**Chimaira** • *This Present Darkness* • East Coast Empire Records • This Cleveland hardcore band doesn't necessarily stand out musically, except that at times singer Mark Hunter goes for a Deftones style of vocals, more like a pained whisper. Other than that, this is regular, run-of-the-mill hardcore.

**Co-Ed/Pollen** • *A Split Recording* • Cool Guy Records • Co-Ed is awesome. The female vocals are perfect, energized and sincere and are backed by equally perfect melodic punk rock that is far from generic. Loaded with hooks, their six songs had me immediately humming along. Pollen delivers pounding, melodic rock 'n roll with great guitar parts, smooth tempo changes and powerful male vocals.

**Cooter** • *Looking Up* • Fastmusic • It's pop-punk. The kind of guys who wear bowling shirts and pennyloafers and slick back their hair. There are no songs on here that really stand up and grab you by the nutsack. It is pretty typical of the genre... not great, not bad.

**Crooked Fingers** • *self-titled* • WARM • Archers of Loaf frontman Eric Bachmann and Brian Causey of Man or Astroman? form Crooked Fingers, an excellent project producing strong anthems reminiscent of the Pogues, but by no means a reproduction. Brilliant music.

**Dahlia Seed** • *Please Excuse All The Blood* • Spirit of Orr Records • Dahlia Seed is no more. The band dissolved in 1996, but this final album is a collection of unreleased tracks and rare singles from this basement punk band. The tough voiced Tracy Wilson tears through some very simple, but good, tunes with all the conviction necessary. If these are the leftovers, I would like to give the main dish a try.

**Deal's Gone Bad** • *Overboard* • Jump Up! Records • Chicago's Deal's Gone Bad give us a new release that's both uplifting and depressing. It starts off with the catchy upbeat "I'm Sorry," and then evolves through bright and dark tones. For some reason or another I don't fully relate to this release, but then again I've had a hard time getting into any ska from the Midwest. Most of the instrumentation is on the lower end of the scale, so the brightness associated with genre is dimmed by the weight of the song's notes.

**Dirty Three** • *Whatever You Love, You Are* • Touch and Go Records • After a few rocky years, The Dirty Three finally released their sixth album, *Whatever You Love, You Are*. As the title suggests, this trio has realized that they are the music that they so love. Consisting of a guitarist, a violinist and a drummer, The Dirty Three's music flows beautifully, creating different moods that seem to last forever (shortest song is 6 1/2 minutes long). Turn off the lights and let The Dirty Three take you on a voyage of the soul.

**Discount** • *Crash Diagnostics* • New American Dream • Since 1995, Discount has been wow-

ing audiences with their energy and intricate pop-punk stylings. This is the four-piece's third full-length album, and it's their best to date. Recorded by the great J. Robbins (Jawbox/Burning Airlines/Desoto Records) this album takes the band beyond the realm of stereotypical pop-punk into the world of intricate new rock that is more intense and emotional than past releases – and sounds great! Alison is still as amazing behind the microphone as ever and the band is becoming more and more mature with each new release. Past fans will drool, while new fans will wonder how they missed noticing this band years ago.

**DJ Faust** • *Inward Journeys* • Bomb Hip-Hop Records • In his latest release, "Inward Journeys," DJ Faust explores his inner musical self through four sections Fire, Wind, Water and Earth. There's lots of sampling and tons of scratching. Fellow labelmate Shortee appears on the track "Boy Meets Girl."

**DMT** • *C4* • Stray Records • Drum Machine Technicians (DMT) was conceived by DJ Cue and Eddie Def, as a series of 5 discs to be released, featuring Eddie Def in the first and third, DJ Cue in the second and fourth, and both in the final disc. C4 is the second, and features DJ Cue showing off his skills on the drum machine. The result is a bit monotonous. Each song seems to go on forever, repeating the same beat over and over.

**Doctor Manette** • *The Same Thing Over And Over* • Jump Up! Records • Even though the title is *The Same Thing Over And Over*, this debut by Doctor Manette is anything but. They jump from pop to ska to punk seamlessly, sometimes in the same song. The production is flawless, with crisp horns and pounding drums.

**Drowningman** • *Howtheylight EP* • Revelation • Something happened in Vermont, some kind of chemical mix-up that transformed five northern boys into fierce, hardcore musicians. These four songs are just the spark that will ignite the fire. For the most part a hardcore band, Drowningman turns things upside down with the injection of punk/indie aspects to their sound. While your head gets stomped, your attacker pauses to reflect on happier times, only to resume pounding you soon thereafter – this is Drowningman.

**Drunk Horse** • *self-titled* • Man's Ruin Records • For fans of uncompromising Rock 'n Roll. Drunk Horse (formerly known as The Pants) take no prisoners as they assault you with raunchy, heavy guitars, and unpolished vocals that reminded me of early Mick Jagger at times. Get ready to rock like never before.

**Eddie the Rat** • *self-titled* • Seeland • You have never heard anything like this before, and that's probably the highest praise I can give this creepy, disjointed project. I use the word project because there are few real "songs" here, so be warned. Eddie the Rat (aka. Pete Martin) uses found noises, homemade instruments, snatches of conversation, and stoned nursery rhymes to create eerie sound collages. Some will call it profound, some will call it insane, most just won't know what to call it.

**Enemies** • *self-titled* • New Disorder • I wish more songs here were like "In Decay." This song slows down and hits a rhythm with it's delivery that has more power than all their fast numbers combined. The lyrics throughout this disc are great and worth reading. The music is guitar-bass-drum punk rock. I hoped for more, but Enemies are a perceptive band playing punk rock. Can't fault them for that.

**Entombed** • *Black Juju* • Man's Ruin Records • This release expands on their recent 10", adding four new tracks, including covers of artists like Alice Cooper, Twisted Sister, Bob Dylan, The Dwarves, Captain Beyond and Jerry's Kids. This is the punk side of Entombed, and one you will like.

**Epiphany** • *self-titled EP* • *self-released* • Three guys

sure can rip your head off. With these three tracks, you get a taste of the hardcore intensity Epiphany delivers. Screamed vocals, fast-paced music and a pounding attitude keeps this sick shit alive. Looking for a pick-me-up, this will do that and then throw you against a wall.

**Errortype** • *Eleven* • Amplified To Rock • Some Records • With thought-provoking lyrics and an energy that won't quit, ET:11 are back with nine tracks of rock. From catchy hooks to pulsating melodies to emotional power. "Amplified To Rock" is just that. Arty's vocals are intense, a perfect counterpart to the pounding rhythms and intricate instrumentation. This is definitely a worthy follow-up to their first, self-titled full-length – taking ET:11 to the next level and reassuring fans that they'll soon be in a town near you to rock the stage, and they will!

**Funeral Oration** • *Discography* • Hopeless Records • This is a two disc set with 48 songs on it, encompassing 15 years that this band has been recording. It is a good set. I had never heard of these guys and did not know what to expect. The discs are packaged nicely and produced well. The music is fast, aggressive punk that still retains musical aspects, not just speed and fury.

**Funny Looking Kids** • *Picture Day* • Fastmusic • I thought this was going to be mediocre, old school punk rock based on the first track. But from there, the music turns into an Op-Ivy/Less Than Jake influenced mix of punk and ska riffs. There's loads of melody and hooks, tempo changes and attitude. This is an incredibly fun punk record – put on some dancin' shoes and call all your friends!

**Groove Armada** • *Vertigo* • Jive Electro Records • A well-rounded US debut by UK's Groove Armada. Sometimes trip-hop, sometimes house, Vertigo definitely has a mellow mood to it. Influenced by funk as well as by dance floor rhythms, GA use plenty of live instruments to give the album a more 'live' feeling. Stardust track is Fatboy Slim's remix of / See You Baby

**Hagfish** • *That Was Then. This Is Then* • Coldfront Records • This is a compilation disc of unreleased and barely released Hagfish tunes. It covers almost a full decade of music-making and merriment. Hagfish is one of the bands that dragged me into the punk scene and this disc is a clear example of why. It is cool, daddy-o.

**Hi-Standard** • *Making the Road* • Fat Wreck • Oh, Japan, country of punk rock boys and girls, thank you for the new Hi-Standard album. Like their past albums, this one is full of power-punk energy and melodies, quick changes and surprisingly good English vocals. This releases features 18 tracks, each ready to rock your world.

**Homemade** • *What Were We Getting Into. Before We Got Into This?* • Theologian • This foursome with heavy punk rock influence provides us with a fantastic contemporary sophomore release, a sound that Homemade has been trying to achieve for five years. It's hard-hitting, but has an emotional backbone that keeps everything in balance.

**Hot Stove Jimmy** • *Theme for a Major Hit* • Jump Up! Records • Hot Stove Jimmy explore Blue Meanies territory in this release. The lyrics are a Dadaist mix on nonsense, with the structure based in the vocal intonations and repetitions of phrases. The Blue Meanies employ the theatrical, yet there is an emotion you can cling to through some songs. Hot Stove Jimmy have yet to fully master this delicate balance of embracing the absurd to communicate a deeper essence that standard song structure might be able to. They finally convey a solid emotion on "Good Dresser," yet that's not a very good batting average for a full length disc. I leave

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it to you to determine for yourself if there is a point behind the foolishness.

**In My Eyes** • *Nothing to Hide* • Revelation Records • Another full length from Boston's straight edge hardcore heroes. There isn't a musical departure from their prior release. This is a hardcore record. Alas, it's a well produced and mixed hardcore record, which really makes a difference with the impact the music has. The lyrics deal with regret and disappointment, of him holding true even though you are changing. Hardcore is more or less 18 years old, and hardcore is still stuck on the same themes (regret and disappointment in all relationships). It's a hard path to follow—growing up and deciding what to hold onto, and determining whether the music's message is pertinent to your life.

**Integ2000** • *Project Regenesis* • East Coast Empire • This is a full length by the band formerly known as Integrity. For one reason or another, though both bands have the same vocalist, the vocals here are weak comparatively. Perhaps the earlier recordings had some processing done to beef them up. Nevertheless, the music is great and then the singing starts. Ugh. On the upside, this disc is worth owning for the four cover songs they've included. "Hot Stuff" and "Dancing with Myself" are a lot of fun. Track 10 is the best original on this CD. For once, a talking (not singing) voice and music combine to create an eerie sensory experience.

**Jill Towers** • *Welcome to Dreamfield* • Forbidden Records • Towers plays a mix of contemporary pop/rock and country. While it doesn't break any new ground, Towers does have a real sincerity to her music. Hailing from Orlando, Florida, she's been playing music all her life. It's just too bad that she doesn't test out some new styles and sounds instead of the same old stuff you've heard before—but at least she does what she does well.

**Kid Brother Collective** • *Never Trust Yourself* • Doom Nibbler Records • It bothers me when artists put out releases that are less than 30 minutes. Why not wait until you have more songs to release anything?!? This latest release by Kid Brother Collective is only 10 MINUTES LONG! What gives?!? The music is pretty good, but come on...

**Kittens For Christian** • *Is That What Sex Is Like?* • Dirtbox Records • If this is what sex is like, then forget sex! I enjoyed this CD, but it's nothing like sex. This LA duo scream and churn their way through 25 minutes of visceral emotion. The songs have minimal structures, acting more as a platform on which the screaming/singing can stand on and be heard. Indeed, the vocals sound closer to the listener than the instruments, further enhancing the effect.

**Kittie** • *Spit* • Artemis Records • The title track opens this album with an intensity that will make people run...afraid of the assault on their ears as this four-piece of teenage girls rock them with heavy guitar riffs, throbbing bass and emotionally-charged vocals. This is ferocious metal that is absorbing, constantly changing pace and vocal stylings—going from a slow grind to speedy thrash and from screamed to sincere. Kittie's melodic, hardcore metal is incomparable and addictive.

**Life of Agony** • *1989-1999* • Roadrunner Records • This is a CD collection of material spanning Life of Agony's 10 year existence as a musical entity. The CD booklet has lots of band photos showing their evolution from a hardcore band to artsy metal group. I mean, look at the many hairstyles! Images aside, this disk has unreleased tracks that sound like a lot of the crappy metal from their respective year of origin. Their 1990-era hardcore doesn't hold up 10 years later except as a reminder of how

bad things were. Overall, this CD shows the evolution of yet another hardcore-origin band that wanted to grow musically, and did through metal, but did not achieve the mainstream success their image seemed to crave. This one is for the fans.

**Little Champions** • *Pillow* • Barsuk Records • Powerful, yet sincere, female vocals and shy, but clever, male vocals characterize this catchy indie-pop release. The music bounces and hops along, with a sweet charm flowing forth with every guitar jangle and vocal harmony (don't forget to factor in the simple, yet perfect drums. Casio-created sounds and solid bass work). These 14-songs come together to create a super indie rock record that will be stuck in your head for days to come.

**Mazarin** • *Watch It Happen* • Victoria • Fantastic songwriting is at the heart of Mazarin. Singing of "lost love, music, and nostalgia," this blend of insatiably interesting mirth, incorporating the best musical characteristics of decades past and present, is a must have.

**MegaSuperUltra** • *Power Pop Art* • Jump Up! Records • MegaSuperUltra have worked hard to preserve the Mod styles of the 1960's. Upon this, they have styled the songs in *Power Pop Art*. The singer sounds very much like Elvis Costello at times, while the music is filled with quick changes, stops and starts, keeping you on your toes at all times.

**Mekons** • *Journey to the End of the Night* • Quarterstick • You're sitting at the bar, it's 1am and you're getting bored. On comes the Mekons, and the night is shaping up. With a slow, soulful sound, different from past work, the Mekons weave and sway with each shimmering sound. The pop sensibilities are sincere while the artistic touch influences all twelve tracks. The mixture of vocalists (male and female—four different singers in the Mekons plus guest vocalists on different tracks) and instruments (fiddle, auto-harp, piano, accordion besides the standards) makes for a highly creative work of art. This is a soothing and sincere musical composition.

**Mollycuddle** • *The Best Place For You* • Guilt Ridden Pop • Mollycuddle could be your favorite local band. They are not really from Orlando, but they have that "local band" sound to them. The beginning of *My Osmosis* reminded me a bit of Weezer for some reason. A guy and a girl share the vocals in this power-pop EP.

**Nickelback** • *The State* • Roadrunner Records • Nickelback hails from Canada, where they have experienced a moderate amount of success with their radio-friendly style of hard rock. Right away, you can hear the similarities with bands like Creed, Bush, and early Stone Temple Pilots. With *The State*, they hope to enter the American market. With any luck, you'll hear them on a radio station near you soon.

**Panama** • *Panama* • Two Street Recordings • This self-titled disc is the first release for Panama. The band features former members of Caterpillar, Moped, and Meringue. Musically, Panama sounds like it would fit in well in the Teen Beat universe. At times, Panama's guitar-based pop is reminiscent of former Teen Beat house band Unrest and New Zealand popsters such as the Feelies.

**Pele'** • *elephant* • Sign Language • Remnants of Alligator Gun and The Promise Ring comprise this difficult-to-classify band. They are experimental, and I mean that in the most complimentary of ways. Their instrumental music comes closest to jazz, but stands slightly outside the realm to incorporate soft rock. Their music is perfectly comfortable, relaxing to a great extent, and demonstrates that this trio has an excellent understanding of what the human ear craves.

**Penny's Pet Dragonfly** • *In A Frail Daydream* • Orange Peal Records • They cite bands like Radiohead and the Smashing Pumpkins as some of their influences. They also sound like them. Hailing from the neon covered shallowness of Las Vegas, Penny's Pet Dragonfly dares to reveal what's under the surface with emotional songs, mostly about lost love.

**Physics** • *Live* 2.7.98 • Gold Standard Laboratories • Recorded live to DAT at the Casbah Club in San Diego, 2.7.98 consists of two songs that last about 15 minutes each, in a mind-numbing hypnotic trek through the world of echo and reverb. Track 1 flows right into track 2, with only the talking of the audience in the background that pops in between the songs giving you any sort of clue as to there being any change. Completely instrumental, this CD is perfect for listening in a dark room and thinking about nothing.

**Pinehurst Kids** • *Viewmaster* • 4 Alarm Records • When I first heard the Pinehurst Kids last year, I was amazed. They did something with music that I hadn't heard before, and with *Viewmaster* they stick to that format. The sound is somewhere between Superchunk sweetness and Nirvana noise, but jumps free from being categorized. Joe Davis' vocals are almost as infectious as the music, which slides from simple to intricate but never forgets to stay original. A pop bounce and emotional grind are present in nearly every track, as the Pinehurst Kids keep real rock alive!

**Pocket Change** • *Golden* • Resurrection A.D. • Can you taste the sweet, pop-punk? With sincere, heartfelt vocals and powerful, hook-filled melodies, Pocket Change will have you dancing in no time—and singing along even sooner. These Cali-based fellows let you in on personal thoughts and feelings while getting you addicted to their infectious sound. Have some more.

**Pollen** • *Chip* • Fueled By Ramen • Loaded with energy and emotion, Pollen presents 14 tracks loaded with tempo changes and sincere harmonies. With similarities to ALL, Gameface and The Stereo, Pollen still finds a way to carve their own niche. The vocals are powerful and potent while the music hooks, weaves and pops along, leading you on an emotional rock journey.

**Pop Unknown** • *If Arsenic Fails, Try Algebra* • Deep Elm Records • If *Arsenic Fails, Try Algebra* starts out with a hell of a catchy tune, one that I've been humming all day. It's too bad that *Pop Unknown* drops the momentum they built in that initial track, opting instead for a more relaxed, mellow tone. The album is still good—a clever, creative, mood-shifting mix of indie-pop and rock. I just wish it had kept the energy it started with.

**Puffball** • *Swedish Nitro* • Burning Heart • Puffball play lean, mean rock and f-ing roll, not the limp tired garage rock Americans are so happy to regurgitate. Nope. They flat out give us guitars, growls, attitude and acceleration. Granted, they're stupid for promoting their support of the "Anti-Ska Movement." Why not say "Disco is Dead?" Just like rock and roll, Puffball are ultimately dumb, dumb, dumb, targeting easy marks until someone takes the nitrous away. Alas, the downfall of all rock and roll is that through its rebellion comes conformity.

**Quetzal** • *The Messenger Lies Bleeding in the Footprints of History* • Conspiracy Records • Quetzal is just one of many outlets for this Belgian quartet's political beliefs. The band members are actively involved in politics, as well as organizing and promoting punk shows, in their hometown of Antwerp. Their jarring and sometimes abrasive music certainly reflects their rage against the ills of modern society. Not for the faint of heart, but that's prob-

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ably what they were going for in the first place.

**Radar Mercury** • *Thank You, Goodnight EP* • Doghouse Records • This is alternative rock, which I must admit I have never been a big fan of. They have that "alternative" sound, whatever the hell that means. There are four songs on this EP, none of which stand out as future classics in the rock world. The disc is good, as far as this type of music goes, but it doesn't go very far.

**Rick Rizzo & Tara Key** • *Dark Edson Tiger* • Thrill Jockey Records • The instruments on *Dark Edson Tiger* sound like they are communicating with each other. One speaks, another responds. This is possibly due to the fact that Rick Rizzo and Tara Key recorded most of their parts in different locations, sending tapes back and forth. The result is an ambient-like recording where the music comes in and out, like waves and the tide. The tempo does the same thing. The ambient atmosphere lasts for the first four tracks, slowly introducing guitars and drums until track 5, a wholly rock and roll song. The tempo slows down until the end of the CD, with the 11-minute final track putting the music to rest.

**Rubbish Heap** • *self-titled* • Conspiracy Records • Rubbish Heap plays no-nonsense hardcore with heavy guitars, fast drumming and screamed vocals that sound a bit fuzzy. The songs are a bit more complex than what you would expect, with key changes a-plenty.

**Screeching Weasel** • *Thank You Very Little 2xCD* • Panic Button • Since 1986, Screeching Weasel has been rockin' out punk tunes. Over those 14 years, they've displayed an ability to create tight, melodic songs going from snotty to poppy. Lyrically, SW can be both silly and smart, sometimes at the same time. This double-CD release features 51 tracks. The first 28 are various songs from throughout the bands career including "Crawl", "Crying in my Beer", "Totally", "Stuck Out Here", "My Own World" and many more. Disc two is the other 23 songs, an entire live show from 1993. Although the sound quality isn't great, the selection of tunes is ("You're the Enemy", "Cindy's on Methadone", "Veronica Hates Me", "Automatic Rejector", "Goodbye to You" and more). This is a great compilation of tunes for any hardcore SW fan to grab. Lovers of punk rock (especially the melodic and often poppy kind) should also take notice.

**Seely** • *Winter Birds* • Koch Records • As opposed to their previous recordings, Seely has decided to put more emphasis on the vocals, mixing them a little louder than before and even printing the lyrics. The band is still hypnotic, a little more electronic, and very captivating. Melodies are explored further, as well as harmonic structures. If it helps, they are compared to Stereolab all the time.

**Seven Hearts** • *Mots de Faux Coeurs* • Jungle Crystal Records • By the sound of this band, I can assume they do not enforce any kind of "No Drugs or Alcohol" policies while recording. They sound like a cross between garage, a bit of surf music, and about 10,000 cases of beer. There seems to be a "lounge" vibe, but don't ask me why I think this.

**Shortee** • *The Dreamer* • Bomb Hip-Hop Records • If there ever was a concept album put out by a DJ, this is it. Aptly named, *The Dreamer* is an exploration into Shortee's subconscious. The record is divided into 4 stages, presumably representing 4 stages in "the dream." The whole album has a drowsy feeling to it, with vignettes intermixed with the actual songs.

**Snapcase** • *Designs For Automation* • Victory Records • It has been a long time since Snapcase's

"Progression Through Unlearning" amazed listeners in 1997 – and they're back. This time around, these hardcore kings are injecting musical knowledge directly into your brain. The intensity of the music on this release is remarkable; it pounds, throbs, grinds, soars, drives, hums and then pounds some more. The vocals are screamed with fierce emotion – sometimes overwhelming the infectious music. But that one set-back does nothing to hamper this fiery hardcore masterpiece.

**Space Raiders** • *Don't Be Daft* • The Medicine Label/Skit Records • After listening to track eight from *Don't Be Daft*, I thought that Space Raiders should have titled their CD *Don't Be Daft Punk*. These English folks share musical tastes with their French counterparts, playing with their EQ's and faders during the sampled disco beats they use. Not all of the CD is like that, though. *Monster Munch*, for example, samples a guitar hook from *Teenage Rampage* by The Sweet. After all, Space Raiders pride themselves in their lack of planning, instead sampling records to see where the music takes them, in their goal to create music that is "happy and sad at the same time."

**Standbye** • *Days Spent Waiting* • Guilt Ridden Pop • Dancing on the line that separates emo and power pop, Standbye is definitely worth checking out. Strong female vocals deliver one heartfelt emotion – sadness. Sadness that, over crunching guitars, makes for a good listen.

**Storm and Stress** • *Under Thunder & Fluorescent Light* • Touch and Go Records • When Storm and Stress write music, they begin with a song. Then they try to forget it, letting it evolve into a stew of picked guitar strings and frenetic free form drumming. Most people will find this lack of structure hard to digest, but if you can, you will probably like it. You do not have to think about the music, because S and S give the impression that they do not think about it much either. Since the band is made up of 2/3 of instrumentalist prog-rockers Don Caballero, *Under Thunder & Fluorescent Light* feels more like a collective valve releasing the pressure of the energy of that band.

**Suba** • *São Paulo Confessions* • Six Degrees Records • Suba, who tragically passed away in a fire this past November, had lived in Brazil for the past two decades. He had become one of the top producers in the land, blending electronic sounds with traditional Brazilian elements. This trend is evident in *São Paulo Confessions*, a gem of an album that recounts his life in the South American country. Sensual vocals by Cibelle, as well as by guests Katia B, Taciana and Joana Jones add to the eclectic atmosphere created by the music.

**Sue Garner & Rick Brown** • *Still* • Thrill Jockey Records • After more than 15 years as a performer, most recently as a member of the experimental rock band Run On before going solo, Sue Garner delivers the goods with her latest offering, *Still*. She has partnered with husband Rick Brown to develop songs that are very dissimilar, yet somehow interconnected. A little bit of Blues, a touch of Country, sultry vocals and some electronic effects make this CD an interesting listen.

**Super\_Collider** • *Head On* • The Medicine Label/Skit Records • This very weird dance record blends elements from p-funk, techno, and blues to get you excited yet a bit repulsed at the same time. Thanks in part to Jamie Lidell's vocal work. He sounds as inspired as Prince, yet employs computers to randomly generate his lyrics. Words are chosen for their phonetics rather than for their grammatical sense, making the singer just another instrument. All the sounds were generated by the English duo, who refer to the album's "gestation period" as the proper way to create a record that

will make people dance instantly.

**Takako Minekawa** • *Fun9* • Emperor Norton Records • Japanese pop artist Takako Minekawa fills her music with juxtapositions of contrasting elements from French pop to Krautrock to Easy Listening to Indie Rock, all blended together into what she calls "future-folk-fusion-funk." She avoids the clichés of love and relationships, adopting instead the purer themes of color and water. She is aided by remixers Cornelius and DJ Me DJ You, who contribute in the creation of the electronic backdrop. *Fun9* (pronounced "funk") is definitely worth checking out.

**The American Flag** • *self-titled 2xCD* • Champagne! • Despite *Guided By Voices*' love for this band and rave reviews for their "bubble gum" pop and "sugary hand claps", The American Flag remind me more of The Monkees (updated for the millennium) than "the year's most impressive album" (from *Magnet* magazine). While the melodies are catchy and there are more hooks than a meat locker, this isn't anything I haven't already heard. However, live, this band blows away anything I've heard on this CD (which is a full-length CD and a 4-song EP CD) – their live sound is much bigger rock and less jangly, sugar-pop. They have an animated, rock-star show that is so confident you can't help but love them. Watching these six guys on stage is awesome – definitely do not miss them.

**The Anniversary** • *Designing a Nervous Breakdown* • Heroes & Villians • Forming in late '97, this five-piece began to perform – live shows with Superchunk, Braid, Helium and more. Then in spring of '99, two of the members of The Get Up Kids asked if The Anniversary would do a record on their new label "Heroes & Villians." The ten-tracks are the result of that offer, the band's first full-length. It's characterized by quirky melodies, amazing keyboards and a solid indie-emo-rock sound. There are definitely similarities to The Get Up Kids, but that's not to say The Anniversary aren't unique. The dueling (male/female) vocals are awesome, and their tempo changes are perfectly timed. This is a great album from a band I'm sure you'll hear more from soon.

**The Bar Feeders** • *Pour for Four, Pour Favor!* • Fastmusic • What an appropriate album title for an obviously alcohol-influenced band. The pace is rapid, while the music is punk rock with a garage/live sound. Sometimes melodic, always in your face, these four guys deliver solid tunes with every new track! Try not to choke on these 19-tracks of raucous punk rock.

**The Berlin Project** • *Culture Clash* • *self-released* • The kids still like to play the ska, but do the kids still like to buy it? I'm not sure. But, if you're one who does, this is a pretty impressive self-released album featuring a nine-piece band, 14 tracks and, for the most part, mid-tempo ska with solid horns, great melodies and a really catchiness about them. The songs combine ska riffs/horns and punk rock – creating a danceable and delightful mix.

**The Busy Signals** • *Baby's First Beats* • Sugar Free Records • To say that The Busy Signals like lo-fi is an understatement. They use tons of electronic toy instruments and play the samples and loops by hand, without any sequencers. This, and the hummable singing style gives you a feeling that this music is giving a nod to the past while embracing the future. This is especially true of 88's and 73's, where the singer laments the passing of 88 and 73 rpm records (anyone remember those?), equating them to 8-track tapes and plastic flowers, on top of a sampled percussion and guitar riff that's straight out of 1975. Quirky, weird and fun.

# ★quickies...a little bit on a lot of records★

**The Cigarettes** • *Praise the Music EP* • Burning Heart • Four songs are presented to you by a Swedish traditional ska/swing ensemble called The Cigarettes. The music is so different than the poppy Third-wave ska that I've come to associate with European bands. Nope, this doesn't sound like happy circus music. The playing is accomplished, the tempo is at a steady pace, and the vocals are sung at the right pitch in English. Much recommended!

**The Deadbeats** • *self-titled* • *Fueled Up Records* • Not for the faint of heart. Sweden's The Deadbeats puncture eardrums wherever they go with their high-octane Rock 'n Roll sound. The guitars never let up, the drums keep perfect rhythm, and the singing makes you want to get up and sing along while banging your head. The Deadbeats care about one thing and one thing only: rockin' their ass off. Both fans of metal and punk will dig this.

**The Frownies** • *self-titled* • *Fastmusic* • The Frownies are a hard-hitting three-piece from South Carolina. With an often-ferocious pace, the music charges along with intensity. The vocals are passionate, but far from wimpy. The music is uptempo and aggressive, rough yet refined. This is punk rock, but this is far from the generic punk rock all the kids are used to. While the melodies, hooks and tempo changes are all there, the sincerity of The Frownies, coupled with their unfathomable energy, sets them apart.

**The Jesus Lizard** • *Bang* • *Touch and Go Records* • Remember back before "alternative" was mainstream? The Jesus Lizard is still putting it out there like the black day the music was weakened never happened. The name was vaguely familiar to me. Turns out, they've been putting out music for years and this is their last album. Where the hell was I all those years? These guys are subversive, funny and, hopefully, prolific as I intend to go hunt down everything else they ever put out. GO get the disc and feel self-pity for ignoring them all the years before they stopped.

**The Products** • *Once Again ... The Products!* • *Sidekicks Records* • Prepare to wear out your nastiest boots to the Products! This is straight-up anthem punk in the finest Ramones tradition: fast, loose, and with a minimum of studio production fucking things up. These guys aren't nearly as ironic as their name might suggest, making no apologies for lyrics like "Straight edge Oi punx let's unite." Who cares? You could do worse with edgier bands. Recommended.

**The Streetwalking Cheetahs/The BellRays** • *Punk Rock & Soul* • *Coldfront Records* • Three out of five punk songs, here covered by TSC, were only thinly related to any punk format to which I would listen. "1968 (Bobby took one in the Head)" was

one rare exception. Hearkening back to the classic days of punk, this one should have been the map they used to draft the other sucky pieces. The BellRays' are supposed to be covering the rock end although, where the soul part of the album title falls in, I couldn't tell you. Lead singer Lisa Kekaula can't seem to decide if she'd rather be Janis Joplin or the lead singer of AC/DC, ya know, of "TNT" fame. I don't care so long as she shuts up. Listen to this only if it's given to you for free and then only once.

**The Vindictives** • *Hypno-Punko* • *Coldfront Records* • I like The Vindictives. I like them a lot. This is a very cool disc which is infused with the Hypno-Punko sound, which is cool in short doses. It is a hypnotic sounding chant-like sound found on 3 tracks on this disc. I honestly feel that the disc would be better without these three tracks (they are too long) but, hey, that's what that skip button is for on C.D. players.

**3rd Window** • *Tell Me Why* • *TWindow Records* • While the vocals are solid and the music isn't bad, this six-song release is unremarkable. The music is mediocre, contemporary pop that you could hear from any inhouse bar band. I wouldn't be surprised if this band plays weddings and Bar Mitzvahs, too. Don't get me wrong, they aren't awful - they just don't give me any reason to commend them.

**Thunderball** • *Ambassadors of Style* • *Eighteenth Street Lounge Music* • Steve Raskin and Sid Barcelona blend drum and bass, trip-hop, breakbeat and dub, and cloak it all with a spy theme. You will feel like a secret agent infiltrating the enemy camp as you listen to *Ambassadors of Style*.

**Tiltwheel** • *Hair Brained Scheme Addicts* • *Cool Guy Records* • I was expecting something a little more goofy than this, based on the cover art. Don't get me wrong, it is good punk. It is fast and hard but still doesn't give up every musical ideal for the sake of speed. This is good old, straight-ahead punk.

**Tom Daily** • *Tragedy of Fanbelts EP* • *Double Zero Records* • Tom Daily is a man who can wear a lot of musical hats. On this seven-song EP, Daily does all the vocals as well as playing guitar, bass and keyboards. To fill out the sound (most notably, drums), he has guests join him. Daily used to be in the Chicago pop-rock band Smoking Popes. With his solo material, he creates jangly guitar rock with sincere vocals and quirky hooks. While the music is definitely along the pop lines, it's far from wimpy. The music will make you feel sentimental while it forces you to hum along.

**Travoltas** • *Modern World* • *Coldfront Records* • This, children, is some cool-ass punk. Imagine the Beach Boys and the Ramones melding into one perfect entity. Sweet vocal dynamite and smooth

pop melodies make this a really good disc. You will listen once and the songs will get stuck in your head, but you'll be happy about it because it will block out all that annoying shit. Buy this and clear out your head...

**Various Artists** • *A Little Something for Everyone* • *New Disorder Records* • This San Fran based record label has put out another artist compilation with samples from The Pist, The Criminals, Soda Pop Fuck You and others. Solid punk from TheGodsHateKansas.

Half Empty and ThePist, but the rest leave a lot to be desired. It's worth taking a shot on this CD and seeing if you can find some gems.

**Various Artists** • *At Home With the Groovebox* • *Grand Royal Records* • Almost as much of an advertisement as a compilation disc, the latest Grand Royal sampler features 14 songs composed with Roland's MC-505 Groovebox. The Groovebox is a musical workstation designed to create hip-hop, house, and techno. Artists such as Beck, Pavement, and Sonic Youth take turns experimenting with the Groovebox, resulting in some wildly interesting tunes.

**Various Artists** • *Boston and Beyond* • *Nebulon Community Records* • This 23-band compilation features mostly bands from Boston - with a few from NY, Rhode Island and Maryland. The music is diverse, with styles from ska to pop to hardcore and more. The opening track by Moment "Aramark", is a great, melodic emo tune. Other stand out bands include: the infectious, punk ska of The Goonies; the indie-rock rhythms of Chupa Cabra; pop-punk from The Bends; experimental, indie-rock from The Wobblies; and the brit-like pop of The Fantastics.

**Various Artists** • *Boycott Radical Records* • *Radical Records* • A great compilation of Radical's better bands. They managed to squeeze 25 solid tracks worth of punk, ska, and oi onto this tiny little cd, and you can definitely hear the pressure building. We've got The Cuffs, Inspector 7, Road Rage, Blanks 77 and others, including The Agents, a reggae-ska band from Rhode Island who have earned a new fan here. You absolutely cannot go wrong here, kids. Fun for all ages and levels of sobriety.

**Various Artists** • *Capitol Radio* • *Capital Radio Records* • Capitol Radio is a punk show on one of DC's most popular radio stations. This compilation features some of the bands they've supported through on-air play. With more than 21 punk and hardcore bands, there's bound to be something you'll like. Standout tracks include "Translocation" by Hot Water Music, "Disappeared" by Tuesday, "P.H. Decontrol" by Kid Dynamite, "Half My Time" by Battery and "Bob and Weave" by Oblivion.

**Various Artists** • *Caravana Cubana* • *Rhino Records* • Joining forces on this toe-tappin' release are some of the biggest names in Cuban and Afro-Cuban music - including Chucho Valdes, Al McKibbon, Jimmy Bosch and more. The result is eight-tracks of swingin', Afro-Cuban rhythms loaded with horns, spunk and dance floor appeal, this is an awesome mix of island bounce, salsa soul and tribal beats. With over 50 minutes of music, *Caravana Cubana* will get the party started on the right note and keep you dancing till the wee hours of the morn.

**Various Artists** • *Deep Elm Records For The Working Class No. 2* • *Deep Elm Records* • Deep Elm Records has assembled a compilation from tracks by some of the bands in their current roster. They include Appleseed Cast, Camber, Pop Unknown, Planes Mistaken For Stars, Five Eight, Muckafurguson and Triple Fast Action, among others. Deep Elm enlists bands for their quality, not necessarily for the type of music they play. Tempos and styles vary from slow to fast, punk to emo. Standout tracks are Camber's "Spirit Gum", Pop Unknown's "Head In The Sand", and Pave The Rocket's "Tyro."

**Various Artists** • *Insomniac Radio* • *Insomniac* • With over 15 underground hip-hop artists, this compilation of underground beats and rhymes is the real shit. Independent hip-hop is definitely where the real MCs and DJs are at. The opening track by

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# QUICKIES...a little bit on a lot of records

DYME features two women who can rhyme and have some funky-ass, original beats and music to go with their vocal assault. Some other hittin' tracks are delivered by Da Grassroots, Shadowyze, D128, and Basic Impact. Listen to this and experience what real hip-hop artists are up to.

**Various Artists • Listen Picks - Volume 1 • Listen.com** • It would be idiotic for me to sit here and tell you how popular MP3's are. Listen.com feels the same way. They just came out with a compilation of the songs they like the best, all of which are available on their site. Some established artists like Pavement, Public Enemy, and the Smithereens share space with up and comers Pretty Mighty Mighty, Mover and Antarctica. Even Q-Burns Abstract Message appears in a remix of the Supreme Beings of Leisure's *Strangelove Addiction*. Obviously, MP3's have a long way to go before they replace CD's, since they used a CD to promote their MP3's.

**Various Artists • Metabass 'N Breath: The Life and Times of a Beatboxer • Bomb Hip Hop Records** • This gets props just for doing something I've never seen before: creating a full-length compilation to display the skills of hip-hop's all natural music machine, the human beatbox. Featuring 18 tracks and tons of artists, this album is a true display of what the skilled beatboxer can really accomplish. While some tracks are only so-so, a majority are damn good, mixing beatboxing, DJing and some vocals. Artists featured include beatboxers, Morganics, Baba, and Rafael The Seeker; DJs include DJ Duck, Vin Roc, DJ Shortee, and that's only some of the performers. From the Fat Boys to Doug E. Fresh, this carries beatbox into the year 2000.

**Various Artists • Our Souls Have Grown Deep Like The Rivers 2xCD • Rhino** • This spectacular compilation features some of the biggest and most wonderful names in black literature. The album runs chronologically according to when each work was written, from Langston Hughes's "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" (1919) to Carl Hancock Rux's "No Black Male Show" (1999). By reading their work, each author adds new emotional perspective you don't get when reading their works on your own. The 75 tracks (almost half unreleased) were drawn from albums, radio programs, Library of Congress recordings and elsewhere. From powerful to peaceful to rages against racism, each poet delivers their perspective on America in the eyes of blacks - through times of struggle to times of great change. Some of the authors featured include Gwendolyn Brooks, Maya Angelou, The Last Poets, Ishmael Reed, Amiri Baraka, Nikki Giovanni, Gil Scott-Heron, Rita Dove and Saul Stacey Williams. If the author recordings aren't enough - the 52-page book that comes with it should be. This is a must-have for lovers of poetry, African-American history or anyone fond of beautiful, strong literary works.

**Various Artists • Return of the DJ Vol. 3 • Bomb Hip-Hop Records** • The third installment in the Return of the DJ series, this volume features the likes of DJ Faust, DJ T-Rock, Furious, International, Shortee and Z-Trip (with the sequel to Rockstar, which appeared in Vol. II). The liner notes feature a brief history of the DJ as artist, with some insight into the current interest in Turntablists. With DJ compilations bound to saturate the market due to the music's rising popularity, you would be better served by starting with this one.

**Various Artists • Strangehold: Punk Rock Across America • Triple X Records** • The cover for this comp says "21 pretty decent bands." That is exactly what you get with this CD. Some of them are The Fucking Assholes, Limecell, The Bulemics, Nuclear Saturday, Turning Blue and Calamity Jones among others. Also included are instruc-

tions on how to submit your own band's music to Triple X Records, if you think yours sounds better than theirs does. Last but not least is the quote by William Burroughs printed on the inside cover: "I always thought a punk was someone who took it up the ass."

**Various Artists • Tektonics • OM Records** • I guess it was just a matter of time until electronica artists got together with hip hop artists and collaborated. The result, as you can imagine, is earth shattering. The Herbaliser meets Meat Beat Manifesto. The Scratch Perverts meet Photek. DJ Rob Swift meets Wagon Christ. DJ Craze meets the Propellerheads. You get the idea. This album will satisfy both electronics fans, as well as hip-hop fans, dancing on the fine line that separates turntablism and techno.

**Various Artists • The Orange Spot Sessions Vol. 1 • Orange Peel Records** • A weird and eclectic little collection this is. There is some punk, some rock, and some stuff I wouldn't even try to identify. Most of it is really good. In fact, there's only one exception to a varied-interest music listener: Scott Louis' too dreadfully close to country "Girl Like You." You've gotta be extremely varied for that one. I wish I could more adequately describe what you're gonna get on this CD, but it's everything and it's worth getting.

**Various Artists • WCW Mayhem: The Music • Tommy Boy Records** • If you enjoy the madness that is WCW Wrestling, you are going to love this. *WCW Mayhem: The Music* is a compilation of some rough music that could be a good background for any fight. You will hear never-before-released tracks by Kid Rock (*Blast*), Limp Bizkit (*Faith* remix featuring Everlast) and Metallica (Live version of *Seek and Destroy*), plus WCW regular Megadeth (*Crush 'em*). Also included are Big Punisher & Fat Joe (*Make the Crowd Roar*), Ruff Ryders (*Pay Per View*) and Cypress Hill (*Fist Full*). For the big WCW fan, they have included the Theme songs for Monday Nitro, and wrestlers Goldberg, Macho Man Randy Savage, Diamond Dallas Page, Sting and the Nitro Girls.

**Warren Zevon • Life'll Kill Ya • Artemis Records** • After reviewing a boatload of punk, this is a good change of pace. Do you remember this guy? "Werewolves of London"? "Lawyers, Guns and Money"? He is like a folk singer gone horribly, horribly wrong. This is a great disc. Simple and fun, you get twelve tunes like: "Don't Let Us Get Sick," "My Shit's Fucked Up," and "Porcelain Monkey." These are really good songs which will get stuck in your head... but you won't mind.

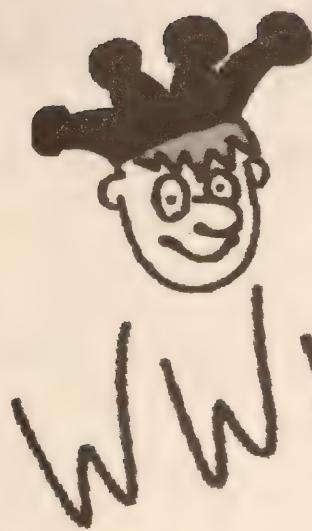
**Wunderkind • Hello...My Name Is Beautiful EP • self-released** • With a heavy rock sound, Wunderkind marches forward, distancing themselves from other "similar" bands by using creative instrumentation and unique musicianship. While this release only features five songs (each clocking in at over 5 minutes), it's a solid display of the infectious nature of Wunderkind's music. Loaded with energy and melodies, the Athens-based quartet will leave no ear undisturbed (and that's a good thing).

**Zao/Outcast • Split EP • Steadfast Records** • This was originally released in 1995, and it still holds up. Zao play their screaming-vocal, tempo-shifting style of hardcore quite well here, with "Security" being my favorite of the two tracks. It's interesting hearing a band screaming for Christ, as it is. You gotta respect the conviction, plus the song rocks out. Outcast finish out the CD with their two songs. I'm not a big fan of these two songs, as they have the stop-start hardcore thing going and the vocals are scream/sung, but not in a manner that's as engaging as Zao.

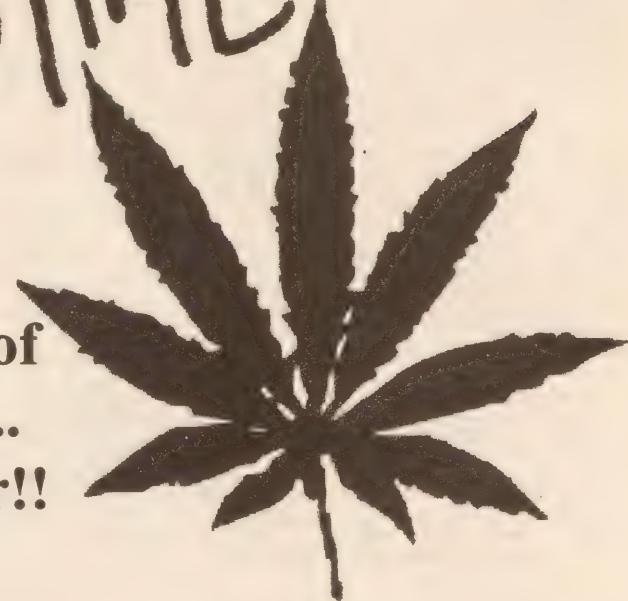
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(write these guys, tell 'em IMPACT sent ya)

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 75A/N, 75 Chambers St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, NY, NY 10007  
 Artemis Records, 130 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., 7<sup>th</sup> Fl., NY, NY 10011  
 Barsuk Records, PO Box 31016, Seattle, WA 98103  
 Bomb Hip-Hop, 4014 24<sup>th</sup> St., PMB #105, San Fran, CA 94114  
 Burning Heart, PO Box 414, 701 48 Orebro, Sweden  
 Capitol Radio, PO Box 229, Arlington, VA 22210  
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 Coldfront Records, PO Box 8345, Berkeley, CA 94707  
 Conspiracy Records, PO Box 269, 2000 Antwerp 1, Belgium  
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 Listen.com, PO Box 503 Village Station, New York, NY 10014  
 Men's Ruin Records, 610 22<sup>nd</sup> St. #302, San Francisco, CA 94107  
 Martyr Music, Box 45, Natick, MA 01760  
 MIA Records, 315 Church Street 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, NYC 10013  
 Muss My Hair Records, PO Box 1266, NY, NY 10013  
 Nebulon Community Records, 44 Winfisky Dr., Stoughton, MA 02072  
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 Six Degrees Records, 602 20<sup>th</sup> St., San Francisco, CA 94107  
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 Some Records, 122 W 29<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, N 10001  
 Spirit of Orr Records, 323 Somerville Ave., Somerville, MA 02143  
 Steadfast Records, PO Box 53, Avon Lake OH 44012  
 Stray Records, 4430 Telegraph Ave., PMB 72, Oakland, CA, 94609  
 Sugar Free Records, PO Box 14168, Chicago, IL 60614  
 The Berlin Project, 109 Clear View Ct., Irwin, PA 15642  
 The Medicine Label/Skin Records, PO Box 174, Brighton BN1 4BA UK  
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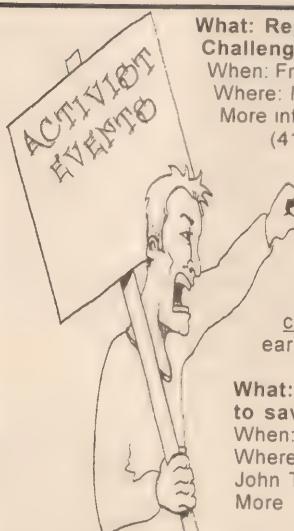
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**What: Report-back from the Iraq Sanctions Challenge III**  
When: Fri., Feb. 11, 7pm  
Where: Mission Cultural Center, San Francisco  
More info: Call International Action Center at (415) 821-6545

**What: Southeastern Vegetarian Action Symposium**  
When: February 18-20, 2000  
Where: Gainesville, FL  
More info: (904) 454-4341 or [chasma@netcommander.com](mailto:chasma@netcommander.com) (register early for better rates)

**What: Emergency national conference to save Mumia Abu-Jamal**  
When: February 19, 2000  
Where: Synod Hall of the Cathedral of St. John The Divine, New York, N.Y.  
More info: [www.FreeMumia.Org](http://www.FreeMumia.Org)

**What: 180 Movement for Democracy and Education Chapter Circle**  
When: February 25-27, 2000  
Where: University of Alabama —Tuscaloosa campus  
More info: 608-262-9036, [www.corporations.org/democracy](http://www.corporations.org/democracy)

**What: Unitarian Universalist Humanist Conference**  
When: March 3-4, 2000  
Where: Unitarian Universalist Church of Brevard, W. Melbourne, FL  
More info: Rev. Jack Higgins, 407.726.9077/407.725.6125, [higgins3@flatoday.infi.net](mailto:higgins3@flatoday.infi.net)

**What: Snowfest for the Animals 2000**  
When: March 5, 2000

**Where: New Ashford, MA**  
More info: <http://www.farmsanctuary.org/visit/snowfest.htm>

**What: Women's Global Strike**  
When: March 8, 2000  
Where: Los Angeles, CA  
More info: <http://womensstrike8m.server101.com> or 323-292-7405

**What: Amnesty International Annual General Meeting**  
When: March 10-12, 2000  
Where: Providence, RI  
More info: <http://www.amnesty-usa.org/events/agm2000/>

**What: McDonalds P.E.T.A "McCruelty" protest**  
When: March 11, 2000  
Where: Wilmington, NC  
More info: [protest@voodoo.drw.net](mailto:protest@voodoo.drw.net) or 1-877-246-5617

**What: Conference on IMF & Globalization's Devastating Effects on Health**  
When: March 11, 2000  
Where: Harvard Med. Sch., Cambridge, MA  
More info: [babl@poz.com](mailto:babl@poz.com)

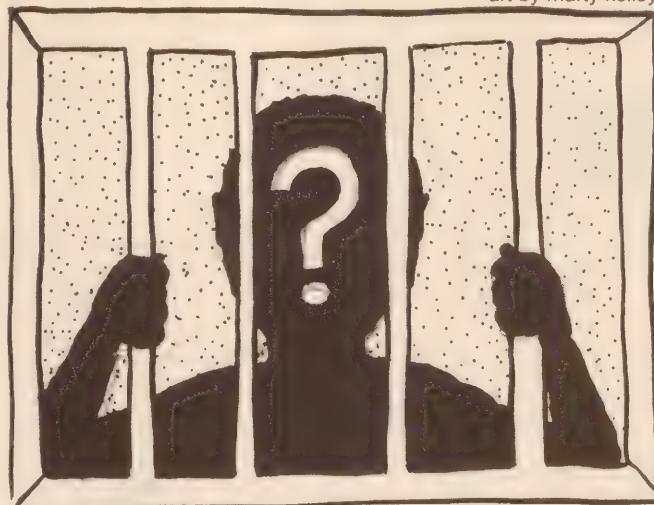
**What: Radikal Feminist Conference**  
When: Mar 31-April 2, 2000  
Where: James Madison Univ., Harrisonburg VA  
More info: Kristin 540-438-1369, [jmuequal@yahoo.com](mailto:jmuequal@yahoo.com)

**What: Solidarity Conference**  
When: March 31-April 2, 2000  
Where: Penn St., State College, PA  
More info: Jessica 814-867-4761, [solidarity\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:solidarity_2000@yahoo.com), <http://www.clubs.psu.edu/aar/conference.htm>

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MY VISIT TO MANATEE COUNTY JAIL in Bradenton, Florida, to interview Dr. Mazen Al-Najjar on December 15, 1999, confirmed my opinion that he is a political prisoner. He was detained on secret evidence because of institutionalized racism and a media-exaggerated fear of terrorism. He is the victim of a well-orchestrated public policy that depends on a gullible, inattentive citizenry that fails to understand how their own silence makes them complicitous in the denial of his civil rights.

My visit with him confirmed the observations of others who have known him throughout his life in a variety of situations. He is a warm, friendly person who treats everyone with courtesy and respect. He is a Palestinian Arab who has the greatest respect for all cultures, including Judaism and Christianity. He has helped his colleagues and students learn about the Middle Eastern culture, and he assists fellow prisoners in a variety of ways.



**The arresting officers from the FBI and INS created fear and panic among his wife and three daughters by hand-cuffing him as if he were a dangerous fugitive from justice.**

Al-Najjar is one of approximately 20 prisoners being held in the United States on the basis of secret evidence. There has been no evidence presented that he has ever advocated terrorism or violence. Najjar's essential kindness and ultimate goodness is in juxtaposition to what one would read in the xenophobic, "yellow press" articles in the *Tampa Tribune*. I learned he has a doctorate in engineering, and was teaching at the University of South Florida, Tampa until May 19, 1997, when he was arrested at his home by the FBI and Immigration and naturalization Service (INS). His friends and associates were profoundly shocked because they know him as a pastor who is greatly admired and respected for his humility and high moral character.

Najjar spoke of the suspicious nature of his arrest and the reasons behind it. The arresting officers from the FBI and INS created fear and panic among his wife and three daughters by hand-cuff-

# In Prison Because He Refuses to Lie

By Dwight Lawton

ing him as if he were a dangerous fugitive from justice. Later they added to his humiliation by inviting a *Tampa Tribune* photographer to be on hand to take pictures.

At first he was led to believe he was being detained only for questioning, but the situation changed after he refused to waive his Miranda rights and would not agree to give false incriminating evidence against his colleagues in return for possible citizenship. Although he had no such evidence to give and

art by marty kelley

refused to do so, it seems that it was then necessary for the agents to get a judge to incarcerate him. The judge's decision and the order to incarcerate had been prepared prior to the hearing, thus ignoring his professional and community credentials as well as his record of no previous arrests. The order stated that he was a risk for flight and a threat to national security.

Delays in the appeals process further add to Najjar's belief that

his vulnerability as a Palestinian Arab and Muslim, with an expired visa sets him up to be used as a pawn. They want evidence from him to obtain the convictions of those who could be connected to Arab terrorists.

Life in prison is extremely difficult for Najjar. He is limited to weekend visits, during which he can only infrequently have physical contact and only three visitors at one time. He very much misses being a husband and father and is particularly concerned that his youngest daughter is growing up without knowing him. When I questioned Mr. Wing of the INS and Mr. Dodd of the Sheriff's department, I was told it was due to a space limitation and the need to have consistent policy for all prisoners. Najjar is incarcerated in a special section for INS prisoners, where most of those held are there for a relatively short period of time. It appears this is part of

(EVIDENCE, continued on page 46)

# Secret Evidence Immigrants Deprived of Liberty

By Dwight Lawton

No person should be deprived of liberty on the basis of evidence that is kept secret from him or her.

This is a fundamental requisite of any fair legal system and any proceedings conducted out of sight of the accused and the attorney are a feature of totalitarian governments and not of our own. The Supreme Court has said repeatedly that deportation is a severe deprivation of liberty – one that can separate a person from home, career and “all that makes life worth living.” The Secret Evidence Repeal Act of 1999, H.R. 2121, introduced on June 10, 1999 by Representatives David Bonior (D-MI), Tom Campbell (R-CA), John Conyers (D-MI) and Bob Barr (R-GA) would restore in immigration proceedings this most basic notion of due process under the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It would put an end to the use of secret evidence against non-citizens in deportation proceedings and promote the Supreme Court’s ruling that non-citizens are protected by the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment. The basis for secrecy presumably is to protect confidential government sources. It is a convenience for law enforcement officials and conceivably a protection for the public. But it is a convenience and protection purchased at a prohibitive price to individual liberty.

## What is happening now?

The 1996 Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act established a new court charged *only* with hearing cases in which the government seeks to deport aliens accused of engaging in terrorist activity based on secret evidence submitted in the form of classified information. The 1996 Illegal Immigration and Immigrant Responsibility Act expanded the secret evidence so it could be more easily used to deport even lawful permanent residents as terrorists. It also included provisions to deny bond to *all* detained non-citizens, including those not accused of being terrorists. Intended to safeguard American citizens, the anti-terrorism bill undermines some of this nation’s most cherished constitutional protections.

Though the secret evidence court has not yet heard a case, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has moved in dozens of proceedings to use secret evidence against non-citizens, to jail them and deny them bond. In fact, the INS attempts to use secret evidence to deny mandatory relief from deportation even though it has no statutory authority to do so.

Virtually every recent secret evidence case that has come to public attention involves a Muslim or Arab.

Secret evidence is being used to detain, without bond, Mazen Al-Najjar in Manatee County Jail, Bradenton, Florida. In October, a Federal district judge in New Jersey, ruled unconstitutional the detention of Palestinian immigrant Hany Kiareldeen. This decision was based on secret evidence purporting to link him to terror-

ism – evidence that his lawyers say appears to consist largely of allegations by a disgruntled ex-wife.

## What is wrong with using secret evidence against non-citizens?

Secret evidence undermines our adversarial sys-

tem. If you were the accused, you would be unable to defend against the unknown accusation whispered to a judge by a secret accuser. Justice Frankfurter once said, “secrecy is not congenial to truth seeking.” No better instrument has been devised for arriving at the truth than to give a person, in jeopardy of serious loss, notice of the case against him or her and the opportunity to confront the accuser. Nothing is more important in a democracy than the feeling that justice has been done. Fairness demands no less. The Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution prohibits the government from using secret evidence in criminal proceedings against both citizens and non-citizens. The Sixth Amendment does not apply in civil proceedings, such as immigration proceedings. One of the problems with the use of secret evidence in immigration cases is the possibility that its use would be expanded to other civil matters.

## What would the Secret Evidence Repeal Act do?

It would put an end to the use of secret evidence in immigration proceedings. The Government would not be allowed to deny an immigration benefit to any non-citizen based on secret evidence.

The Government would not be able to deny release on bond to any non-citizen based on secret evidence. The Government could not arbitrarily deny admission to returning, lawful permanent residents, people it had paroled into the United States, and asylum seekers, based on *confidential* information and without independent review. In pending cases, where the Government is holding an alien without bond based on secret evidence, or is denying an application for relief, it must act fairly.

## Does the Secret Evidence Repeal Act require the release of dangerous terrorists?

No. This act merely requires the government to make a choice. It must either reveal the evidence against a non-citizen whose liberty is in jeopardy, or it must keep that information fully secret and outside the immigration proceedings and determinations. The fight against terrorism need not involve the compromise of our most cherished constitutional rights. Obviously, U.S. citizens should expect the government to take all reasonable care to protect them from terrorism, both foreign and domestic. But that same government also has a duty to protect the constitutional rights of everyone – even those in the minority whose ideas and religions the majority rejects.

**Support the Secret Evidence Repeal Act (H.R. 2121) and encourage your U.S. Representative to support this bi-partisan legislation.**

This information was extracted from information obtained from the American Civil Liberties Union. •

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Q: "I recently have been told that I am HIV positive and when the counselor told me I was infected I kinda went numb. She continued to counsel me for over an hour but I really did not hear a lot of what she was saying you know cause I was like in shock. Well my question is can you tell me exactly what HIV is doing to my immune system and how I can do stuff to keep that from happening? I haven't talked to anyone else about this and I haven't seen a doctor either because I feel OK. Please gimme some advice, OK. Thanks for helping me."

Todd, 19, living with HIV

A: Here are the key players of your immune system, Todd, and what they do:

**Macrophages:** "The Scouts" of the immune system's army. This front line defender engulfs and digests debris that washes into the blood stream. Once this cell encounters a foreign organism, it summons Helper T Cells to the scene.

**Helper T Cells:** "The General" of the immune system that identifies the foreign invader and then rushes to the spleen and lymph nodes to stimulate production of other cells to fight off the infection.

**Killer T Cells:** "The Marines" Recruited and activated by Helper T Cells. They specialize in killing body cells which have been invaded/infected by foreign organisms.

**B Cells:** "The Soldiers" of the immunologic army that reside in the spleen and lymph nodes where they are called into action by the Helper T Cells. They produce chemical weapons called antibodies to use against the foreign invader.

**Antibodies:** "The Weapons" used by the B Cells that are engineered to target a specific invader. There are different antibodies used against every type of foreign invader or germ. An antibody is a "Y" shaped protein molecule that is rushed to the infection to either neutralize the enemy or mark/flag it for attack by other cells or chemicals of the body.

**Suppressor T Cell:** "The Politicians" This T Cell slows down or stops the activities of B Cells and the other T Cells. They generally call off the attack after an infection has been destroyed.

**Memory Cell:** "Green Berets" (T & B cells) generated during the initial infection. These cells circulate/travel in the blood stream or lymph for years after an infection, giving the body the ability to respond quicker to subsequent infections. There are different Memory Cells for each type of foreign invader.

**HIV:** The virus that causes AIDS. To become infected with HIV

By  
Jeffrey-  
John  
Nunziata

it needs to get into your body and then into your blood stream.

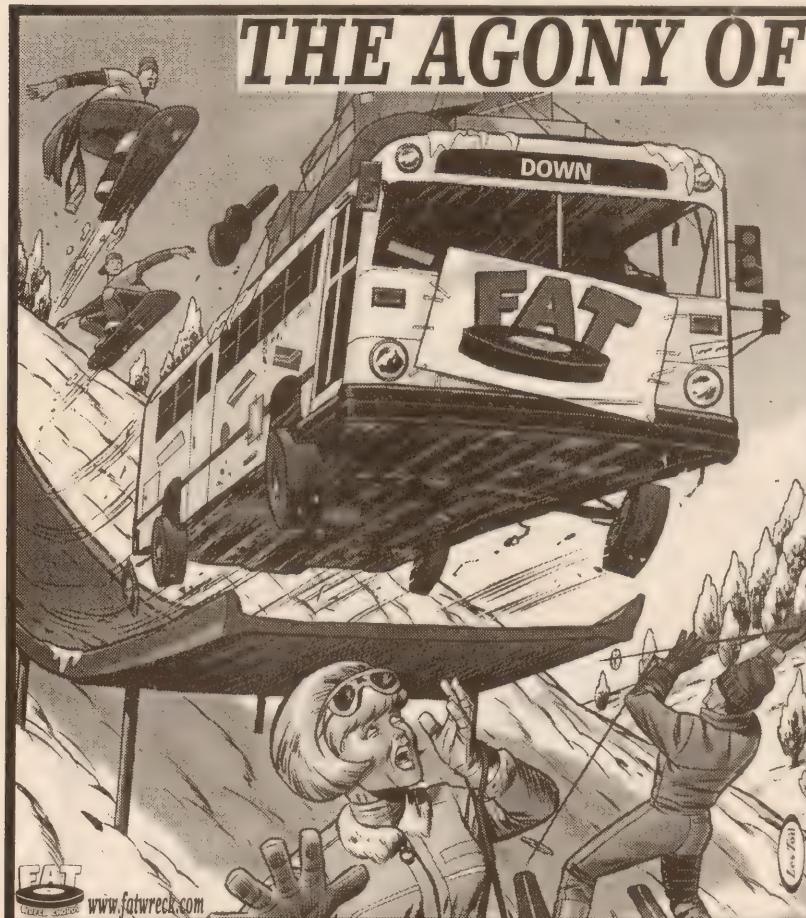
### IMMUNOLOGIC REPONSE TO A TYPICAL VIRUS

- A virus enters the body and gets into the blood stream.
- A blood cell known as a Macrophage detects the virus.
- The Macrophage then sends out chemical warning signals.
- These chemical warning signals activate Lymphocytes (also known as T-cells).
- The T-cells locate the virus and begin to multiply.
- The T-cells then call in B-cells.
- The B-cells also multiply and they attack the virus.
- The weapons the B-cells use are called antibodies.
- The antibodies produced by the B-cells coat the invading virus, deactivate & destroy it.
- Even after the virus is destroyed the antibodies remain in the body.

### IMMUNOLOGIC RESPONSE TO HIV

- HIV enters the body.
- A blood cell known as a Macrophage detects the virus.
- The Macrophage sends out chemical warning signals.
- These chemical warning signals activate T-cells.
- HIV attaches itself to a T-cell and injects inside of the T-cell its genetic material, then HIV can replicate/multiply inside of the T-cell.
- As the virus multiplies inside of the T-cell, it starts to "fill up" with viral particles. At some point, the T-cell can no longer hold the

(AIDS, continued on page 46)

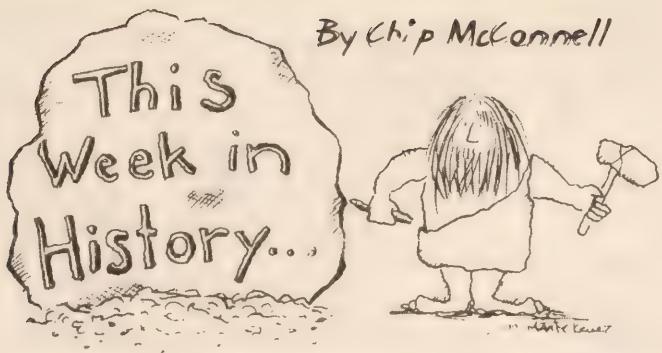


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**MAR. 03 - VANCOUVER**  
**MAR. 04 - SEATTLE**  
**MAR. 05 - PORTLAND**



**3000 BC** - So Long Guy, a well known and respected Samurai, became extremely intoxicated after winning a one-on-one combat that lasted three whole days. During his drunken stupor he challenged that he would eat anything. He is credited with discovering that both milk and oysters are edible.

**2035 BC** - Pang Fong Dool invents the take out box. However, he is killed by an angry mob when they discover he also invented the spork.

**754 BC** - Thereis Alotofus is hailed as the first Roman to ever beware of a Greek bearing gifts

**22 AD** - What is now France is discovered by the Phoenicians. However, it is uninhabitable because it contains French people.

**900 AD** - The last of the Great Pyramids is completed. It is the resting-place for the boy King Itsachickenwattle, who died nearly 300 years earlier and was getting "pretty ripe".

**1021 AD** - The codpiece is invented by Arthur Glurg. Unfortunately, Glurg is killed in his first test of the protective device that he constructed from actual cod. His assistant dies the next day from wounds received while testing a similar device made of perch.

**1523 AD** - Francine Beez invents cleavage.

**1530 AD** - Leonardo DaVinci invents the Renaissance.

**1776 AD** - Gerbert Finster, a well known carriage maker, writes a popular drinking song about his favorite tool, the wrench, called "The Star Bangled Spanner." Two years later the tune is stolen by a dyslexic Francis Scott Keyes.

**1882 AD** - The electric guitar is invented but the prototype weighs 600 pounds and has only one string.

**1885 AD** - The first indoor plumbing is installed in the Vanderbilt estate, The Biltmore House. Many Fundamentalist Christians consider it "the devil's work", "If God had intended us to go to the bathroom inside, he wouldn't have given us leprosy!"

**1958 AD** - Fellini's "La Tete Fromage" debuts but has to be severely edited due to the liberal use of the word "spanky".

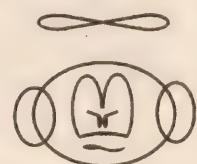
**1972 AD** - Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix and Jim Morrison all die this year. Dan Fogelberg attempts suicide so that he can be immortalized as well, but no one cares.

**One Year Ago Today** - Shredded wheat is actually being sold as a breakfast cereal by several major cereal manufacturers. Steve Guttenburg makes a movie that no one sees.

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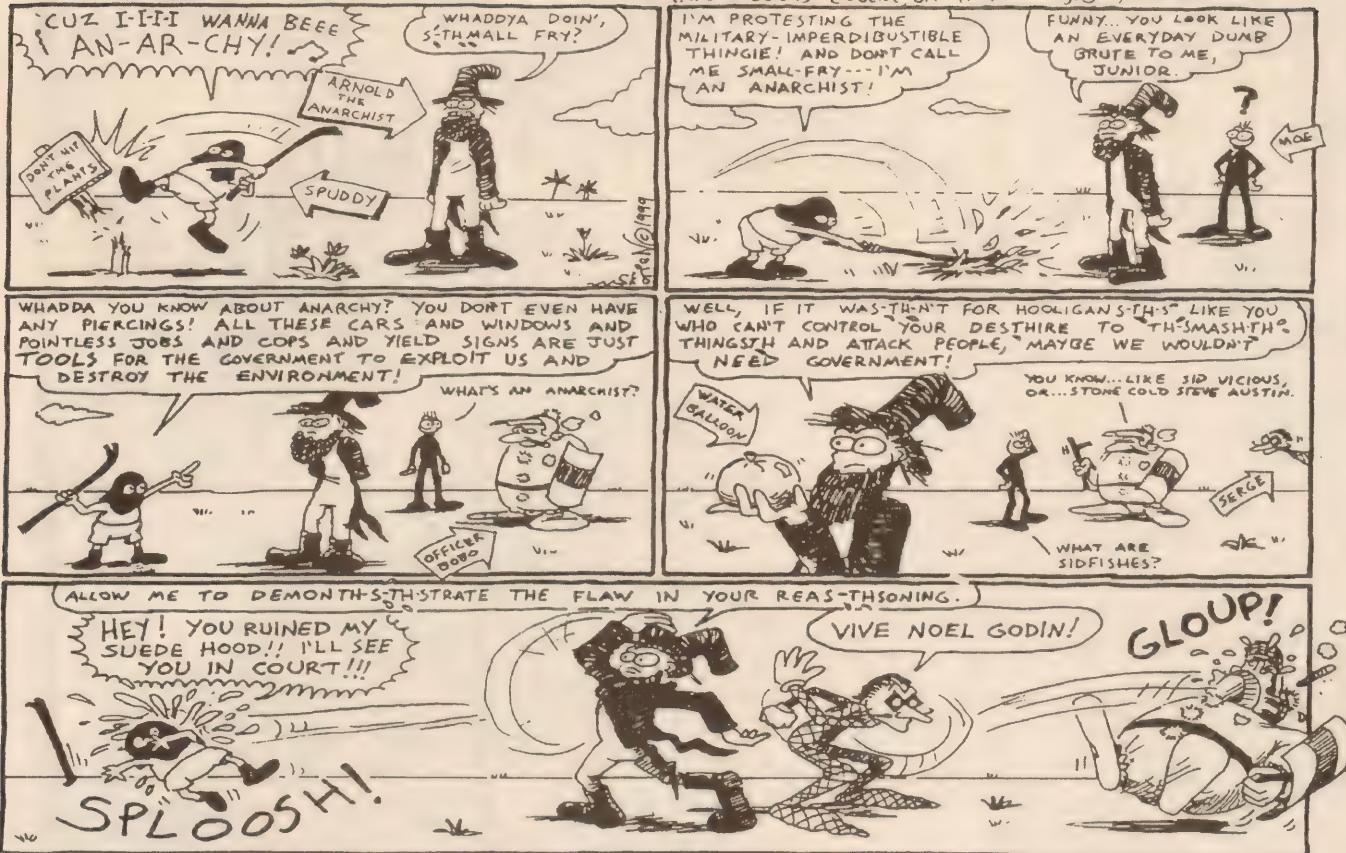
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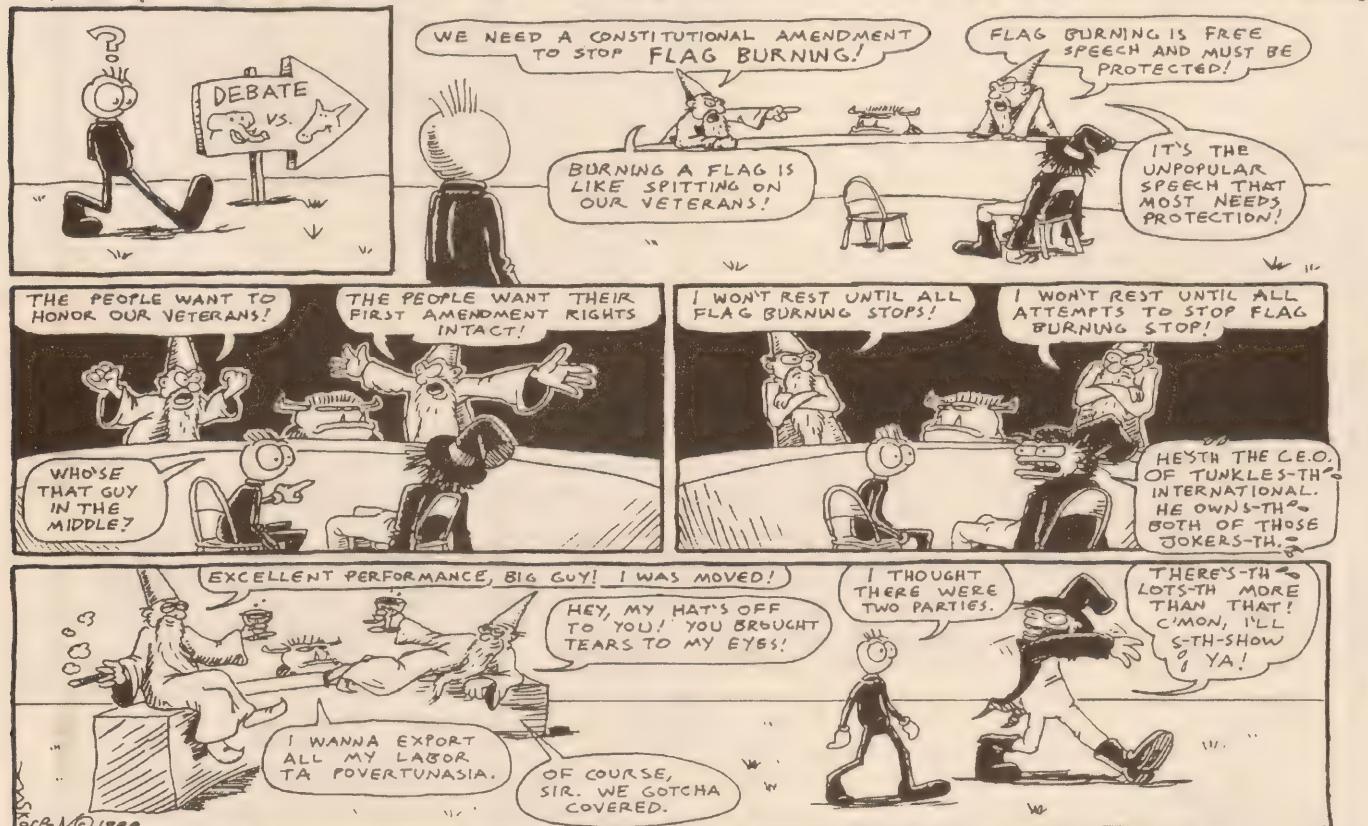
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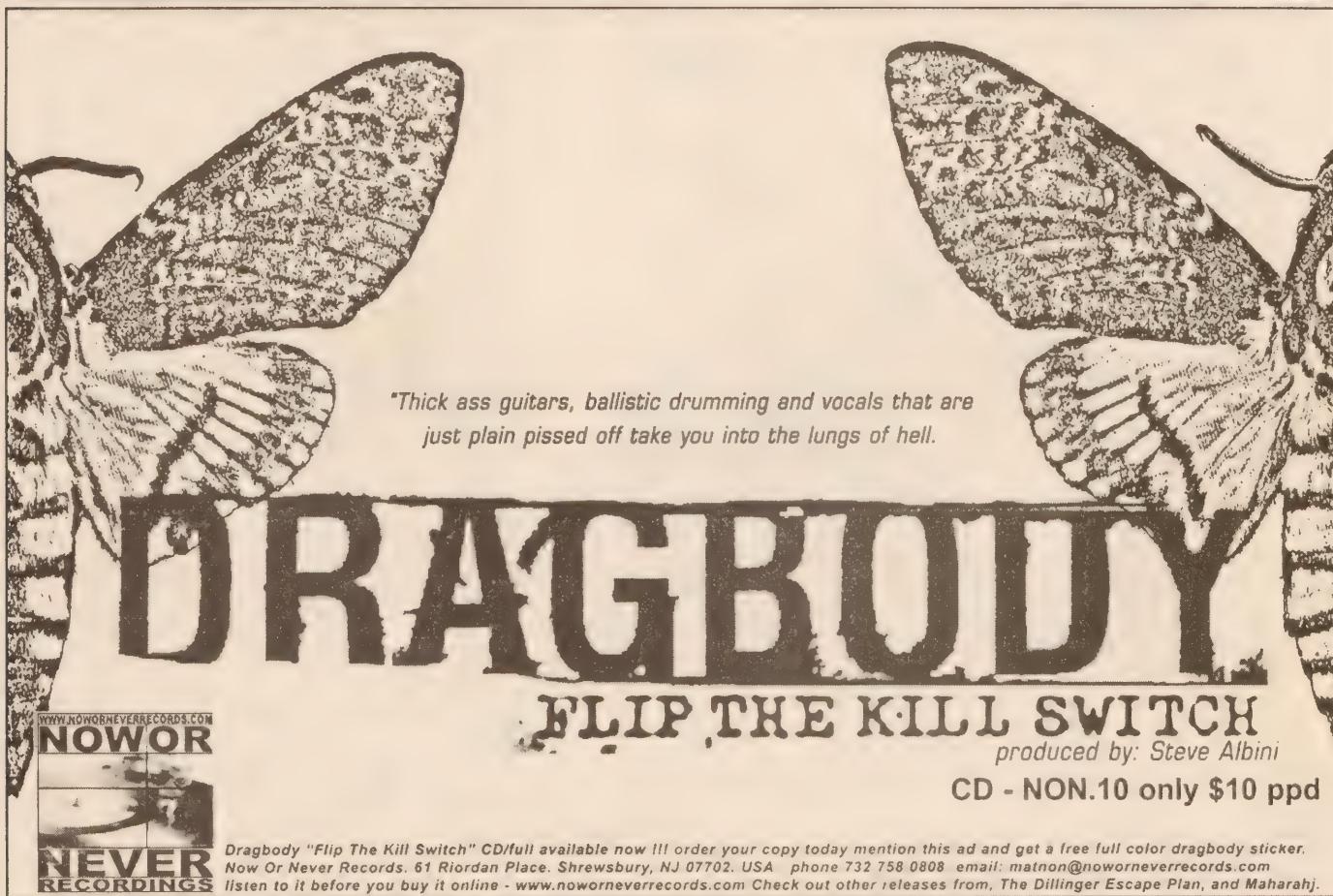


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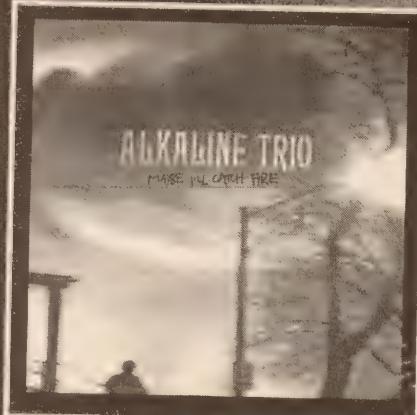
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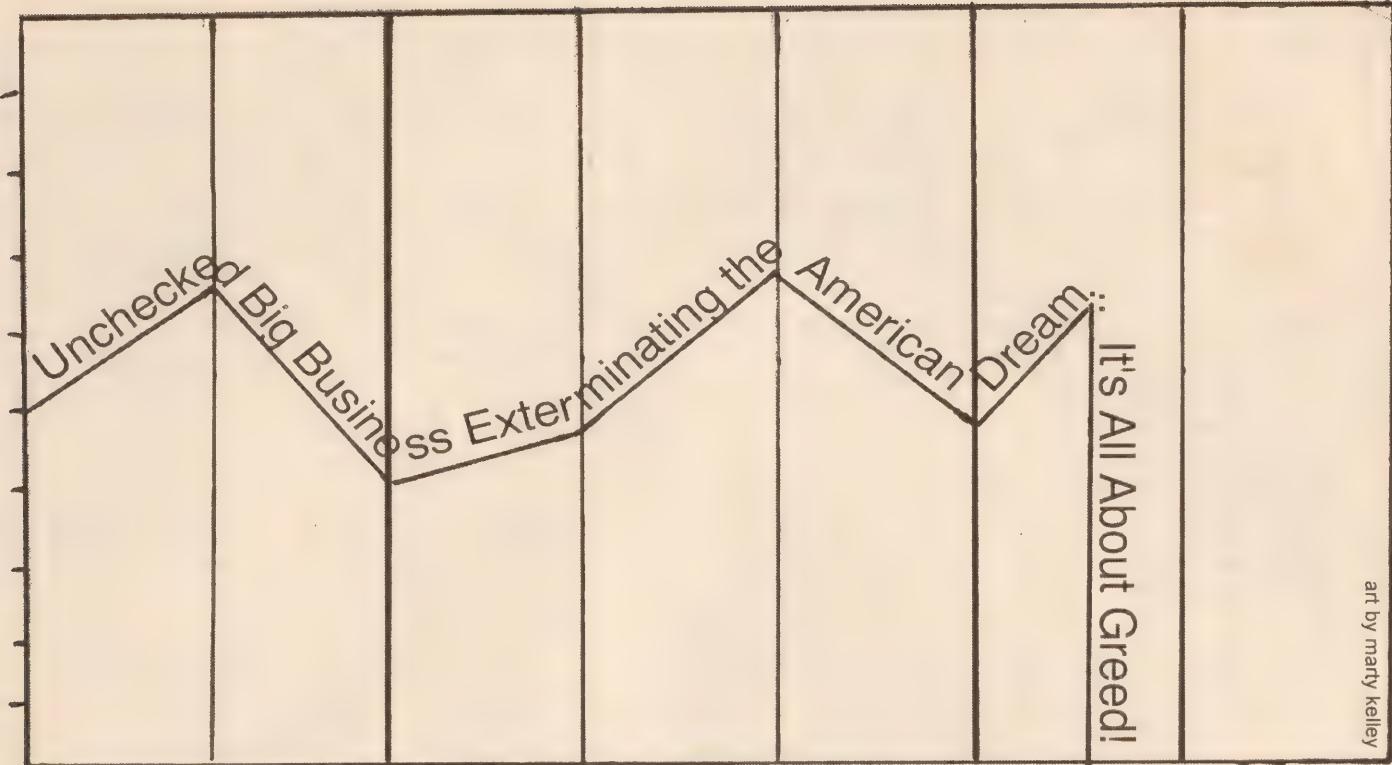
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PART TWO - By Jeffrey-John Nunziata, Iconoclast

**IN A TWELVE YEAR PERIOD, the nation's 500 biggest corporations more than doubled their assets from \$1.2 trillion to \$2.68 trillion dollars. Over the same period of time, something very odd happened. The number of jobs at the 500 biggest corporations in the US did not grow, they actually dropped from 15.9 to 11.5 million.**

Now ask yourself, how could this have possibly happened, it just doesn't make any sense? But you see, even with all of the profits being made by these corporations, there was still a need for more money... more profits to be made. One definite way to achieve a little extra push to your bottom line is by paying out less money in wages to your employees or through limiting their benefits and insurance. Many times workers become aware of a corporations true colors when, in the face of big profits, the corporate executives start implementing a freeze in wages and/or a cut in insurance benefits. Another way to get an even larger increase in profits is by laying off large numbers of workers from their jobs.

If any of the three above-mentioned responses do not achieve the amount of profit desired, there is one final option. The company closes up shop and ships their business overseas to a cheaper market. The top executives are transferred along with the company but most of the workers, the ones living paycheck to paycheck, do not get to go along with the company. They are left at home to wait in the unemployment line and collect welfare. This can have a devastating effect on anyone's faith in themselves and also puts a strain on relationships with husbands, wives, lovers and/or children as well. And while things at home are falling apart, the company is making a foot-hold in some underdeveloped nation where there are less constraints. The corporation is more free to

exploit foreign workers due to limited workers rights, lack of unions

and no occupational safety constraints. It's much easier to exploit in countries where the standards of living are so low that even a small amount of money seems like a fortune and people will almost fight each other for a job that pays slave wages. These workers don't complain about working a 15-hour day in a sweat shop environment with only two fifteen-minute breaks a day.

Many of us actually buy our clothes from companies that have abandoned our fellow American workers at home to exploit foreign workers. Most of us have no clue that our retailers have done this. Some of the popular clothing retailers who are in the exploited end of things are the bastions of footwear, Nike, and every "trendy's" friend, The Gap. When these companies moved overseas to produce their clothes and shoes, they claimed that the moves would save millions of dollars... and they did save millions of dollars. They also told Americans that, even though individuals were laid off, the money would be made up through a cut in prices that would be passed on to the consumers. Well that comment was nothing more than these corporations totally talking smack to us. When you go into The Gap to buy their clothes or buy Nike shoes, you pay top dollar. There were never savings passed on to



the consumer as promised. And yet, consumers continue to purchase goods from these two retailers who have robbed our nation, screwed over thousands of former employees and lied to their consumers. The only people who gained anything financial from these dastardly deeds are the major executives in the corporation and the stock/share holders. We are still paying the same price for the same goods, only now they cost even less to make. There will never be any savings passed on to the consumer cause it's all about greed.

In the old days, when our parents were kids, corporations were proud team players. They were considered part of the US landscape and an integral part of the towns they lived in. They sponsored baseball teams, did fundraisers and some even helped support the arts. This is no longer the case for most of the corporations. Today, it's all about how much they can make and their rate of profit. The desire of corporations to make a buck often comes into conflict with the rights of workers and their desire to live a life where they are not simply existing from one payday to another. Let's face it, the average American worker is not a priority to the corporation they work for, nor the government that was voted in to represent them.

Corporations owe an allegiance to their bottom line and their shareholders who, in many cases, are the top executives in these corporations. They are accountable only to the global financial system and feel they don't owe anyone else a dime. To many of us, they owe a moral obligation to their workers, their community and country, but you can't legislate morality and conscience. In the corporate mind, the whole world, including where you live, is just another market and you are just another consumer.

There is always some place cheaper a company can move to. Almost every corporation in the US has the ability to hold wages down by threatening that they will move the plant somewhere else if the workers push for too many benefits or a higher salary. American workers have lulled themselves into a false sense of security by feeling that they have won something if they are able to keep a factory in their town. What they don't realize is that their wages are sub-standard in many cases and their insurance benefits are minimal. Multinational corporations can pack up shop in no time and they consistently remind their workers of this fact.

The national interest means nothing. The wealthy become wealthy, in most cases, by exploiting their fellow citizens and by being players in the global market. They do what they have to do for the advantage of the almighty dollar. In many cases they may even engage in illegal activity. These corporations exploit each and every taxpayer through the continued rise in white collar crime. We

have all seen the multi-billion dollar scams from Wall Street to Asia. We saw the Savings and Loan fiasco and the multitudes of wealthy who lie to save money in taxes and others who flat out evade paying taxes. The old saying goes that someone has to pay for this and it isn't the wealth who are paying... it's you and me.

During the "Reagan Reich", also commonly called the "Reagan Years", the wealthy of this country grew even more wealthy under the protection of pro-big business Republican leadership. The average after-tax income of the top 1% of Americans increased almost 125% while the bottom 1/5th fell 10%. The Reagan presidency was great for American corporations and the wealthy and started the free-fall of Americans from the middle class into poverty. In 1986, the Tax Reform Act, highly supported by Reagan and his cronies, cost taxpayers over \$200 billion in tax cuts in corporate welfare for the wealthiest 1/5th of Americans. The national debt caused by both Reagan and Bush continues to cost every taxpayer a fortune and, unfortunately, the middle class is paying for the brunt of it. The wealthy continue to escape through tax loop holes.

It's also quite bizarre, but many of the Fortune 500 companies receive some sort of corporate welfare from the government. These corporations continue to show record profits as their shareholders are becoming increasingly wealthy and they continue to exploit their workers while receiving subsidies from Uncle Sam. Special business tax provisions cost the government over \$70 billion a year! That money could be used to assist those living in poverty or increase access to health care. But, instead, this money is used to help the rich get richer.

The federal government spends billions of your hard earned money to actually promote US businesses overseas. You see, these big corporations lobby Congress to help them make larger profits. The interesting thing about this is that, in many cases, these corporations are laying off people and showing record profits while they are also receiving economic aid from our government. Pillsbury received almost \$3 million dollars to promote the "doughboy" and his bakery goods to markets overseas. Sunkist received over \$10 million to promote orange juice. State governments are also involved in the corporate welfare business as well. Washington State has spent about \$150 million to build roads through national forests to assist logging companies to more easily reach "bigger and better" trees. At the same time, the road system around Seattle, including its bridge system, is in dire need of upgrades. You can tell who has the bigger pull with state government and it ain't the common man and woman. We will have to do it for ourselves.

In PART 3 of this series we will focus on corporations, politics, foreign trade & the globalization of the market. \*

## Evidence injustice

(EVIDENCE, continued from page 36)

the punishment that could entice him to implicate other terrorists, a common practice. If he and his family complain too much, he could be transferred to distant facilities that would cause difficult visitation. The punishment is not for anything he has done, it is for what he morally cannot do - even to obtain release.

Najjar, an avid reader, is restricted to three books at any one time. He shares a cell with one other and the area is often noisy. He passes time during the week by volunteering to work in the tailor shop, but on the weekends, there is little to do. Permission to use the phone is easily obtained, but the charges are excessive, and he is restricted to calling only the areas served by the local telephone company.

For the first time since he was imprisoned, there is some hope for Najjar in that he is finally getting expert legal support. A lawsuit has been filed on his behalf challenging the constitutionality of the INS practice of detaining people on secret evidence and the denial of bail.

Those of us who continue to think and speak of our country as providing equal justice and fair play are in denial. Unjustifiable detention and the abrogation of civil rights based on the unfair use of secret evidence is blatantly unjust. We must call this government to account. Why does Attorney General Reno not rule on the use of secret evidence and why has Najjar been detained without bail? It has been pointed out in a recent *St. Petersburg Times* editorial that some of our precious liberties have been diminished by the courts and the Clinton Administration, which has one of the worst records of any administration in this century.

When I asked Najjar if he ever could have imagined that he would be in this predicament and faced with a silent citizenry, he sadly shook his head and said that he was one of those who would have been silent also. If we remain silent and do not speak out about injustice who will speak for us? •

(Dwight Lawton, St. Petersburg, Florida, served six months in federal prison in 1998 for misdemeanor trespass at Fort Benning, Columbus, Georgia for protesting the School of the Americas.)

## Make an IMPACT

### ACLU Action Alert

<http://www.aclu.org/action/secret106.html>

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Comm.  
<http://www.adc.org/>

The American-Muslim Council  
<http://www.amconline.org/>

## Try a new political option

(OPTIONS, continued from page 12)

But he doesn't mention anything about why people are still assholes and why violence still exists in the world despite its uselessness. Shouldn't that be the first priority? I mean, that's what I'm really interested in, and have always been interested in, since my conception.

Where's the craziness? Why don't we try a grand experiment and wash clean our current batch of lawmakers? I'm certainly not the first to suggest it. Vote for someone unconventional... as long as they're over 35. Put in a write-in vote for David Letterman, Yo Yo Ma, or your dad (if he's a nice, smart guy.) But seriously, why must America always be so 50/50, us-or-them, Coke-or-Pepsi? There are multiple parties active and so many dreams of a new world contained within. Try to find speech within alternate parties that truly inspires and provides a vehicle for thought.

Don't reward the childish muckrakers this year. They don't deserve it, quite frankly. They're an abomination to class, dignity, and high society and we could do so much better without them. Elect a few bright-eyed geniuses instead of dark-motive lawyers. Even though companies have been using the same argument of late to peddle their wares, I'm going to use it again: "What better time than 2000?" •

## Make an IMPACT on AIDS

(AIDS, continued from page 39)

viral particles inside itself, and it is destroyed.

- Once the T-cell is destroyed, viral particles are released into the blood system.
- Those viral particles then attach themselves to other T-cells and the process repeats itself.
- When the B-cells appear, they attack the virus & antibodies are produced. Antibodies are only effective against "free floating" virus. The majority of the HIV remains "hidden" inside of the T-cells.
- While all of this is happening, the virus continues to destroy T-cells, replicate, and spread.
- Over time, the immune system becomes weaker and compromised.
- Opportunistic illnesses/infections take opportunity of the body's weakened immune state.
- It is one of these illnesses/infections that can make the person with AIDS very sick.

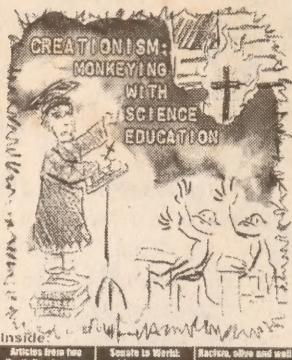
Now Todd, it is really important that you realize that any time you stimulate your immune system, you can cause the virus to replicate quicker. You can stimulate your immune system by stressing it out by doing things like not eating properly, not getting enough rest and/or sleep, becoming stressed out or worrying, by using drugs and/or alcohol and by getting sick with secondary infections like a common cold, the flu or even a sexually transmitted disease. Any time you get sick or run yourself down, you stimulate your immune system. When you stimulate your immune system, you cause the virus to replicate quicker. When the virus replicates quicker, it can destroy more of your immune system making you sicker more quickly and possibly leading to an AIDS case diagnosis sooner.

Even though you feel well, you need to see a doctor. The doctor will help to figure out exactly what is going on in your body with the virus and if you need to be on some kind of medicine. Many people with HIV who are showing no signs or symptoms are taking medication, but only a doctor can tell you if you need to be on medicine or not. Also contact your local Health Department and find out how to get in touch with an HIV case manager. That's a person who can help you manage your illness and work the system. Don't worry about money either, many services may be free. If you need any additional help please feel free to call me at (813) 871-7561. Good luck, Todd.

If you want to mail letters to an address....

Jeffrey-John Nunziata, FL Dept. of Health  
Area 6 HIV Program Office  
Asst. HIV/AIDS Program Coordinator & Statewide Trainer  
4000 W. Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd., Tampa, FL 33614-7093

# Back Issues **IMPACT** press



issue #24

Issue #24, December/January '99-00, Cover Story: Creationism - Monkeying With Science Education -- Also: Articles from two death row inmates; Senate to World: "Screw You!"; Racism in U.S. colleges

Issue #23, October/November '99, Cover Story: Big House of Horrors - Abuse In America's Jails -- Also: The Religious Left - A Moral Balancing Act; America is Selling Out Taiwan; TJ Walker columns

Issue #22, August/September '99, Cover Story: Prisoners of Conscience -- US Political Prisoners -- Also: Space Exploration & Exploitation; America's Ritual Genocide of Iraq

Issue #21, June/July '99, Cover Story: Imprisoning the Mind - Art Censorship in America -- Also: Facing 30; Death with Dignity or a .22; A Patriotic Left

Issue #20, Apr/May '99, Cover Story: The Chaining of America -- Also: The Death Penalty -- Reassessing the Punishment; School of the Americas: Training Foreign Killers

Issue #19, Feb/Mar '99, Cover Story: Population Control: How Many Are Too Many? -- Also: Imprisoning the Masses -- Dark Side of a Prison State; Human Rights Issues

Issue #18, Dec/Jan '98-99, Cover Story: Interview with Michael Moore plus, Are Women Just a Bunch of Boobs -- Also: An Inside Look at the Homeless Problem

Issue #17, Oct/Nov '98, Cover Story: Battle For Governor of Florida -- Also: Sexual Politics in the Workplace: Money Determines our Society

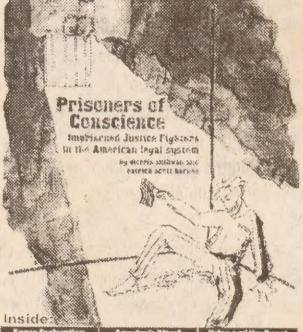
Issue #16, Aug/Sep '98, Cover Story: Schoolyard Armageddon -- Also: Life of a Pro-Abortionist; USA - We're No. 1; The Great Disservice of Nationalism

Issue #15, Jun/Jul '98, Cover Story: CyberSociety -- Also: Sex By Numbers; Confessions of a Phone Psychic; The Inconsistency of Theism

Issue #14, Apr/May '98, Cover Story: ArtsPolitik -- Also: Paranoia; Anal Laws Sodomize Society; Environmental Chaos and Politics

Issue #13, Feb/Mar '98, Cover Story: Human Cloning -- Also: Surviving Bulimia; Purchasing Condoms and Lubes; A News Addict Speaks Out

Issue #12, Dec/Jan '97-98, Cover Story: The Age of Anger -- Also: Preferential Treatment; The Culture of Anonymous Sex; Medical Marijuana



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Issue #11, Oct/Nov '97, Cover Story: Homohatred in America -- Also: Antidepressants for Adolescents; The Swift Solution -- Food For Thought

Issue #10, Aug/Sep '97, Cover Story: Employer Espionage -- Also: Family Values - Witch Hunting in the '90s

Issue #9, Jun/Jul '97, Cover Story: The Assault on Public Education -- Also: Interview with a white supremacist; More from Mumia Abu-Jamal

Issue #8, Apr/May '97, Cover Story: Commentaries by Mumia Abu-Jamal -- Also: New Urbanism; Racism Today; The Real American --The Real Radical

Issue #7, Feb/Mar '97, Cover Story: American Religion on the Cross -- Also: Failed War on Drugs; Physician Assisted Suicide; Can Nutmeg Get You High?

Issue #6, Dec/Jan '96-97, Cover Story: Confronting the "Drug Problem" -- Also: Gay Marriage Rights; Net Censorship; The Idiot Clause; Ad Trickery

Issue #5, Oct/Nov '96, Cover Story: Election '96 Special -- Also: Corporate Terrorists, Chiapas Mexico Injustice; Film is About Soul

Issue #4, Summer '96, Cover Story: Everglades vs. Sugar Cane -- Also: Downward Spiral of the Republican Revolution: Don't Pay Your Taxes

Issue #3, May '96, Cover Story: Christians Politics, Fearful Future -- Also: Police Entrapment; Killer Tomatoes -- Deadly Pesticides; Graffiti -- Urban Artwork

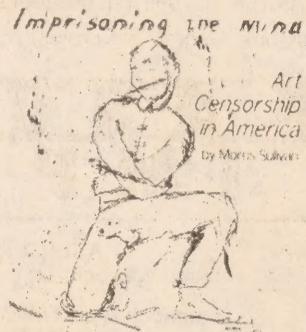
Issue #2, April '96, Cover Story: The Purchasing of Politicians -- Also: Class Distinction in America; Botched Executions -- Cruel and Unusual?

Issue #1, March '96, Cover Story: Child Abuse Fraud -- Also: FBI Wiretapping policies; The Legalities (or lack of) in Drug Testing

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issue #23



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